LIBBY PURVES

The woman's movie: a blameless addiction

The attraction of schlock, page 10

THE SPORTING YEAR

Simon Barnes on the agony and the agony

Curse of the bowler hat, page 23

CADS, ALL OF THEM

Julia Llewellyn Smith on the bounders of '93

Bad-mannered chaps, page 11

30P

THE TIMES

No. 64,838 WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 1993

Home sales poised for revival

Britain looks to 1994 with new optimism

BY PHILIP BASSETT AND EDWARD GORMAN

■ Even with tax rises round the corner and ministers busily trying to prevent over-exuberance, financial experts are viewing 1994 with confidence

BUSINESS leaders, economists and housing experts were last night confidently predicting a happy new year for the economy after more than three years in the doldrums.

Low inflation and interest rates, falling unemployment and a world trade deal have all contributed to a mood of optimism, and some analysts hope that a slow, steady recovery could finally break the boom-and-bust cycles of the Seventies and Eighties.

With share prices on nearly all the world's stock markets hitting record levels, the Institute of Directors described prospects as extremely encouraging, and the Halifax building society predicted a further revival in the housing market with a 5 per cent increase in prices.

Stephen Dorrell, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, was equally confident, although he conceded that tax increases coming into effect in April would restrain the rate of recovery. He claimed that was part of deliberate government policy to prevent a boom that could get out of hand, telling BBC Radio: "What we do not want is a consumer recovery which gets out of control, which leads to inflationary boom and balance of payments difficulties of the kind we have seen in the past."

That attitude was endorsed by Neil Austin of the City advisers KPMG, who said: "There is a widely held view that we are entering a new era of lower inflation and interest rates. Coupled with the success of the Gatt negotiations, this may well mean that we can look forward to a less cyclical future. This should help City confidence."

The Halifax also adopted a "safety first" approach in its annual review, saying: "The days of boom and bust in the UK housing market are hopefully ended and we are seeing a return to housing being a safe, if not spectacular, investment."

The society predicted that the number of people moving house next year would be 15 per cent up on 1993 and that prices would rise by about 5 per cent on top of the 2 per cent increase seen this year. That would still leave the number of transactions well below the norm for the buoyant 1980s, "but would indicate a return to more healthy levels of activity," the report said.

The Institute of Directors was equally hopeful — and equally guarded — in its latest survey of business confidence. "The picture is one of cautious but slowly increasing optimism about the economic and business prospects for next year," Peter Morgan, the director-general, said. "The challenge for business will be to profit from these favourable conditions."

The survey of about 300 directors found that 58 per cent were reporting increased turnover and orders, and 39 per cent were expecting to take on more staff in the next six months. But, there was still clear concern about lack of demand, with the number of directors worried up from 21 per cent in October to 36 per cent this month.

Since some interviews were conducted after the Budget, the findings provide an initial reaction to Kenneth Clarke's measures, although the institute says that the Budget's overall impact would not be discernible until the spring.

If ministers and analysts were cautious in their predictions of good times ahead, stock markets were booming. The London Stock Exchange, which reopens today, closed on Friday with the FT-SE 100 Index on a record high of 3,412.3 and since then, most other markets have been setting records.

The Hong Kong market recorded its biggest one-day gain yesterday, and the Singapore market also hit a

Continued on page 2, col 1

Full employment is the goal for all Conservative employment secretaries, according to David Hunt, Secretary of State for Employment. His remarks appear to be the furthest a senior Conservative minister has yet gone towards embracing an idea of which even many opposition parties are wary Page 32

Treasury warning, page 2
World markets, page 29
Leading from front, page 30
Employment goal, page 32

PETER TREVNOR

Jackie Styles, from Poole, Dorset, bargain hunting among the wedding dresses reduced at the Liberty sale in London, which began yesterday. Bad weather reduced crowds, but High Street stores are hoping that the economic recovery will be reflected in top "January sales" figures. Page 5

War weary catch the Sarajevo freedom bus

Joel Brand witnesses the emotional departure of the latest refugees lucky enough to escape from Sarajevo

In the gloom of a wintry morning, they trudged up to several miles through falling sleet and snow to what they hoped would be freedom.

Many had signed up for the convoy in the autumn of 1992, more than a year ago. Several times they had made the now-familiar, early-morning trek to the departure point, hoping it would be the last time they would have to run past snipers and duck incoming shells.

Over these past 21 months, each one had endured a personal nightmare. They had spent their time imprisoned in a jail where they had encountered death and suffering in many forms, and where they had learnt what it was like to live in the Middle Ages.

Yesterday was their 633rd day under siege, and for a chosen 800, their last. Women, children, the very old, and those too crippled to fight were the lucky ones bound yesterday from Sarajevo for Split in Croatia. One-third were Muslims, one-third Croats and one-third Serbs and "others" of mixed marriages. A second convoy, taking 150 Serbs to Serb-held territory and then Belgrade, was to leave after the first convoy arrived safely.

As the refugees boarded the buses at the gutted remains of Sarajevo railway station, tears were shed among relatives staying behind, but there were few from those departing.

Marina, 31, shielded from the bitter cold in a matching mink coat and hat, said her farewells to her sobbing parents. Those departing could take only two small bags, and most wore their best clothes.

Marina's husband, a soldier, stood quietly to one side, as his mother-in-law hugged her 14-month-old granddaughter, maybe for the last time. "My baby was born by candlelight and I want to get her out of here before the winter," she said with little visible remorse. "I thought it would be over quickly, like we all did, so I didn't go," said Marina, who had sent her then-six-year-old son in a convoy to Croatia in April 1992.

In those early days a week of war would have been an eternity, a month seemed impossible. Now the months are turning to years, and time has taken its toll on Sarajevo, which in the early days demonstrated a spirit that could never be killed by weapons. The convoys that left in the summer of that first, devastating year were of women and children, most forced to leave by their relatives, husbands, fathers.

The times have changed, and the Serbs are achieving their goal — which had always been to terrorise all 400,000 residents to leave of their own accord.

Every week more people slip out, bribing United Nations officials, risking fate and surrendering to the Serbs, crawling through the tunnel under the airport — anything to get away from the 24-hours a day, seven-days-a-week, 52-weeks-a-year of terror.

There is a well-known doctor in Sarajevo whose devotion to caring for the never-ending parade of wounded has been just heroic. But this month he too reached the end of his tether. One of his patients — a young wounded child — was to be evacuated by the UN, and the doctor suggested that he accompany the child as a medical escort.

The UN evacuation team said it was not necessary. The doctor insisted. The UN then replied that it was against regulations and was not possible for the doctor to come along. Eventually he refused to authorise the dying child's evacuation unless they rescued him too. Even in Sarajevo, his behavior was unacceptable; but still, everyone understands why he acted as he did.

As the buses left the station yesterday afternoon, there was ill feeling against those lucky enough to be leaving.

People spat and muttered obscenities as they trudged along the slushy streets, past the cargo containers which shielded them from the snipers in the hills above the doomed city.

Candles for peace, page 9

Youth arrested after safari 'therapy' trip

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A PROBLEM teenager has been arrested on suspicion of drink-driving three days after returning from an 80-day "character building" tour of Africa at the expense of the taxpayers.

The youth, aged 17, managed to stay out of trouble for two days after the end of his £7,000 trip before being detained by police in Gloucester. He was breath tested by police on Monday and has been released on bail to report to Gloucester police station on February 2.

The youth, who cannot be named for legal reasons, returned to the city on Christmas eve at the end of a 13,000-mile African tour that included visits to Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. His tour included cruising on the Nile, watching the sun rise over Mount Sinai and visiting the tombs of the pharaohs.

His trip was organised by the Bryn Melyn residential centre at Bala in North Wales, founded to provide challenging therapy for young people who have been abused or have criminal records. The youth had been receiving treatment

Continued on page 2, col 7

Russian extremist expelled

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BULGARIA has ordered Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the extreme right-wing Russian politician, to leave the country within 24 hours. The Interior Ministry in Sofia said yesterday he had angered Bulgarians by demanding the resignation of President Zhelev, their first democratically-elected leader, and instead presenting his Bulgarian friend and adviser, Svetoslav Stoilov, as the Balkan nation's future leader.

An angry crowd of about 500 Bulgarians booed and shouted "Hitler" and "go home" at Mr Zhirinovsky yesterday when he laid flowers at a monument to Soviet troops in the centre of Sofia.

In Bonn meanwhile, a foreign ministry spokesman said Germany had not yet decided whether to grant a request by Mr Zhirinovsky for a visa.

Clinton names new Christopher deputy

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

STROBE Talbott, a former room-mate of President Clinton at Oxford who has been credited as the architect of America's policy towards Russia, is the new Deputy Secretary of State, with the specific task of bringing Washington's foreign policy into sharper focus. His nomination signals an increased determination by the President to counter persistent criticism over foreign policy, a drive that began earlier this month with the effective dismissal of Les Aspin as Defence Secretary.

Mr Talbott, 47, a former columnist at *Time* magazine who was appointed ambassador-at-large responsible for policy towards Russia, replaces Clifton Wharton.

He beat three diplomats to the post: Thomas Pickering, ambassador to Moscow, Morton Abramowitz, head of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; and Winston Lord, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. The choice was made by Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State.

Reshaping policies, page 8

INDEX

Arts	25-27
Births, marriages, deaths	14
Chess	6,32
Crossword	16
Leading articles	13
Letters	13,29
Obituaries	15
Times Two Crossword	32
Weather	16
TV & Radio	31

Buying The Times overseas
Austria Sch 35; Belgium B Frs 70; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 250; Cyprus C£1.00; Denmark Dkr 16.00; Finland Mk 15.00; France F 12.00; Germany DM 4.00; Gibraltar 80p; Greece Dr 350; Netherlands Fl 4.50; Irish Republic 45p; Italy L 3,300; Luxembourg Lf 60; Madeira Esc 275; Malta 43c; Morocco Dir 25.00; Norway Kr 18.00; Portugal Esc 275; Spain Pes 250; Sweden Skr 17.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.80; Tunisia Din 2.00; USA $3.00.

52
9 770140 046435

Blizzards ruin Australia's Christmas beach party

FROM MICHAEL PESCHARDT IN SYDNEY

MILLIONS of picnic hampers had been prepared; crates of champagne put on ice; and scores of surfboards loaded on to car roof racks ready for a traditional Australian Christmas at the beach. But with the sort of timing usually reserved for British bank holidays, the weather has intervened to make this the most miserable festive season in living memory.

In Melbourne, it has been the coldest Christmas for more than a hundred years. In homes throughout the city, the central heating was turned on and everyone has been huddled in front of the television — though, to add to the misery, there has been little to watch. Christmas is the leanest of periods for viewers here, as television networks schedule hour upon hour of repeats.

Even the traditional Boxing Day cricket Test has been an anti-climax. Only a few hours' play was possible in the opening three days of the first Test against the South Africans in more than 20 years.

In the Snowy Mountains, normally hot and balmy at this time of the year, people were able to work off their Christmas lunches with snowball fights after fresh blizzards.

At sea, competitors in the annual Sydney-to-Hobart yacht race have been battling the worst gales for decades. Two boats have sunk and nearly half the 105 vessels have been forced to shelter in port. One skipper was swept overboard and spent six hours in the water before being spotted by a tanker.

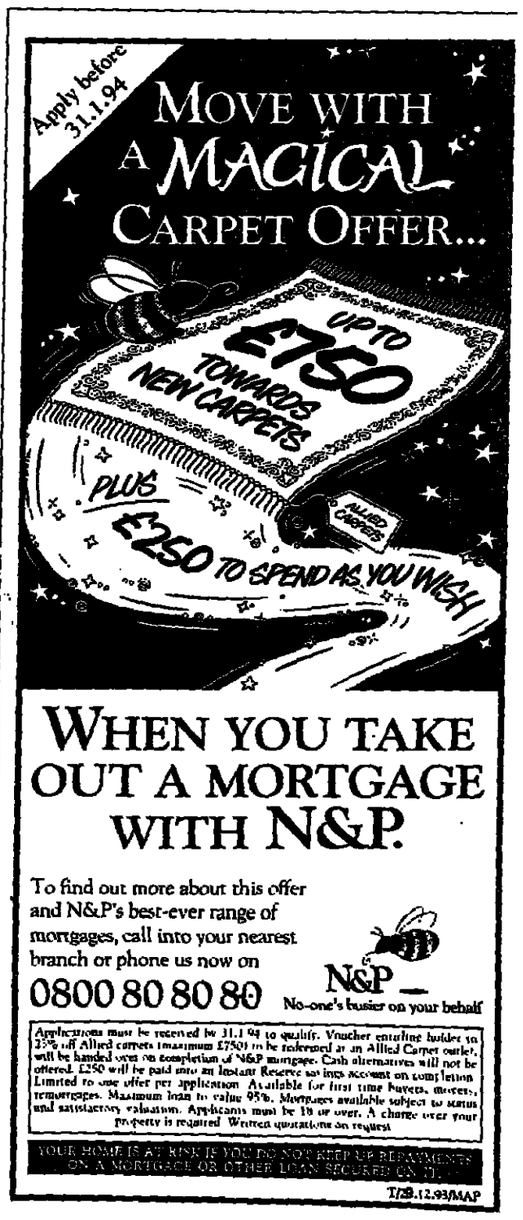
The cause is a low pressure area to the south-east of Australia. In Tasmania, roads have been cut by floods and roofs blown off.

Only in Perth, in Western Australia, has Christmas lived up to tradition. The temperature has topped 100F, and beaches have been heaving with holidaymakers.

It is one of the more disconcerting aspects of Christmas here that seasonal decorations show Father Christmas sleighing through the snow. This year, however, he was dressed properly; it is those in T-shirts and zinc suntan cream who are suddenly looking out of place.

Snow fell in many areas yesterday, causing problems for travellers and forcing the cancellation of sporting events. In Kent, black ice made driving conditions hazardous, while stretches of the M42 around Birmingham were reduced to one lane and at least 17 vehicles were involved in a pile-up. West Yorkshire police described roads as atrocious, and speed restrictions were in force on the M62 and M1. Leeds/Bradford airport was shut while snow ploughs cleared the runway and flights were diverted .....Report, page 2; photograph, page 16

Photograph, page 7
Yacht race, page 17



WHEN YOU TAKE OUT A MORTGAGE WITH N&P.

To find out more about this offer and N&P's best-ever range of mortgages, call into your nearest branch or phone us now on

0800 80 80 80

N&P — No-one's busier on your behalf

Applications must be received by 31.1.94 to qualify. Voucher entitling holder to 25% off Allied carpets (maximum £750) to be redeemed at an Allied Carpet outlet, will be handed over on completion of N&P mortgage. Cash alternatives will not be offered. £250 will be paid into an Instant Reserve savings account on completion. Limited to one offer per application. Available for first time buyers, movers, remortgages. Maximum loan to value 95%. Mortgages available subject to status and satisfactory valuation. Applicants must be 18 or over. A charge over your property is required. Written quotations on request.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

T/29.12.93/MAP

Vatican expert condemns mother of test-tube twins

■ The babies born to a 59-year-old woman will be disadvantaged by never knowing their real mother, a theologian claims

FROM PHILIP WILLAN IN ROME

THE Vatican fuelled the controversy over *in vitro* fertilisation yesterday when a leading expert specifically criticised the 59-year-old London woman who gave birth to twins on Christmas Day.

"The two little twins born in London will never know their real mother," Father Gonzalo Miranda, a Spanish priest who runs the bioethics centre at Rome's Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, said.

"They were carried into this world with a handicap from the start. The woman who bore them is not their genetic mother. Their genetic make-up, which is so important for the overall configuration of an individual, comes from an anonymous Italian donor of the eggs and from the man whom the woman has just married."

Father Miranda said he expected the woman would have the characteristics of a grandmother rather than a mother. "The psychological phases of maternity coincide naturally with the physiological phases," he said. "In the present case the physiological circumstances of the woman have been artificially forced, and a psychological forcing has also been carried out."

He said the latest technical achievements by Dr Severino Antinori, the controversial fertility specialist, demonstrated that the Catholic church's opposition to test-tube fertilisations, particularly when the eggs or sperm of an extraneous donor are used, was well-founded. "This opposition is not the product of abstract theories, but is founded on the search for the complete good of every human being, which includes the need to avoid forced situations and their unpredictable outcomes," he said.

Father Miranda said the latest developments confirmed the necessity of the Vatican's 1987 appeal for new legislation in the bioethics field.

Professor Jean-Francois Mattéi, a senior figure in French medicine, described the birth of the twins as running against nature. "The woman has been reduced to the role of an incubator, and the child to that of an object," he said. "Why not imagine a 100-year-old mother, just to get into the record books?

"Pregnancy is a physical and psychological trial, and nature considers that once a woman reaches menopause, her body is no longer able to assure pregnancy without unforseeable risks."

Prof Mattéi, who is head of the pre-natal unit of Marseille-Timone hospital, a member of the French parliament and a leading member of the Government's ethical advisory council, said the matter would be raised in a forthcoming Senate debate on bioethics.

The 62-year-old Italian farmer's wife who is expecting a baby after treatment from Dr Antinori said yesterday that she was fearful of the wide international interest in her case.

Rosanna Della Corte said: "I would have preferred that people didn't know about my pregnancy so soon because I haven't yet completed the third month and this is my seventh attempt to get pregnant."

She said she was anxiety about the birth. "But I'm sure I have so much love to give him, an infinite love, all that I had for Riccardo, my first child who died two years ago at the age of 17. I have suffered so much, why should I not merit the joy of bringing up a new baby now?"

Simon Jenkins, page 12

Steam train to Brighton evokes power and the glory of a distant era

The age of steam being revived yesterday by a British Railways standard class 4 engine pulling a train past the shell of Battersea power station in London. The charter service — the first steam train to Brighton since 1967 — was one of three run this week by the Flying Scotsman Enterprise Agency

Hopes high for '94

Continued from page 1

new high. Shares in New York, Paris and Frankfurt all reached record levels on Monday, although they all fell slightly as some investors took their profits yesterday.

Only the Tokyo market — the world's biggest — is nowhere near a record level. Shares there have been depressed because of the Japanese recession combined with the high value of the yen.

The Nikkei index rose 311 points to 17,131 yesterday, but that is still almost 13,000 lower than its all-time high.

World markets, page 29
Leading from front, page 30

Pit managers feathering own nests, says Labour

BY ROBERT MORGAN AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

BRITISH Coal managers preparing to bid for the privatised industry were accused by Labour yesterday of seeking to benefit from the closure of pits.

Neil Clarke, chairman of British Coal, had earlier confirmed that managers were interested in trying to maintain control of parts of the industry, which is to be sold next year, in the absence of positive interest from Britain's big mining companies.

Mr Clarke said: "They know a great deal about the business, and certainly in the regional areas, Wales and Scotland, I would not be surprised that they will be willing to have a go."

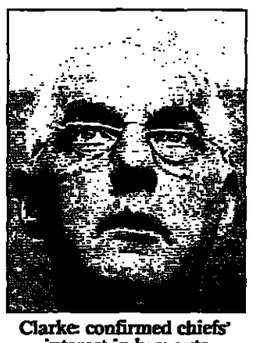
The disclosure that senior managers were planning attempts to take over some of the five coal regions led to accusations that the Government had deliberately allowed managers to run down the industry to reduce buy-out costs.

Kim Howells, the Labour MP for Pontypridd and a former miner, said last night: "I believe they were given the task directly by the Government to run this industry down. They did not complain about it. They simply closed down one pit after another.

"This has all the signs of an expedient management buy-out and that they were feathering their own nests for the future."

Tim Eggar, the energy minister, is expected to announce details of the privatisation programme early next year.

He was warned by Lord Parkinson, the former energy secretary, that the Government would have to take on some of British Coal's liabilities before the industry could be privatised. Lord Parkinson said: "British Coal is not just the biggest coal producer in Britain, it is the regulator for the whole industry. It owns all the reserves. There is going to have to be a fundamental restructuring of the whole industry. Certain things will have to be left with the Government — the ownership of the reserves alongside certain liabilities."



Clarke: confirmed chiefs' interest in buy-outs

Few big international mining companies have shown interest in the British mining business. Mr Clarke, speaking on BBC Radio Four's *The World at One*, said that they might come forward when more details were known.

Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, said yesterday that miners would oppose privatisation "in whatever form it takes". He said: "We, as the British people, already own this industry and it ought to be given a fair crack of the whip economically."

Ministers prepare to soften tax blows

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TREASURY warnings that tax rises will slow down Britain's economic recovery yesterday heralded a concerted Government campaign to soften the blow of next year's increases.

Stephen Dorrell, Treasury Financial Secretary, admitted that tax increases announced in this year's two Budgets will hold up economic progress when they filter through to pay packets in the Spring. It was "right to say the tax increases coming in will slow the recovery from the pace it would otherwise have taken", he said.

His warning is likely to be followed by a new year strategy among senior ministers to prepare the public for a "pain barrier" when tax rises come into effect. Ministers are anxious that people are forewarned about the size of the burden so that there is not an over-reaction to the rises which will show through immediately before local council elections in May and European parliamentary elections in June.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, has conceded that the combined effects of his Budget last month and Norman Lamont's March Budget will cost the average family at least £9 a week in increased taxes, equivalent to a 7p in the pound tax rise.

Although Mr Dorrell insisted that Britain was well placed to show continued growth, and cautioned against allowing the economy to "run too fast", he acknowledged that "the recovery is not going as fast as maybe we would like in an ideal world".

Economic optimism, page 1

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drivers due home from Turkish jail

Three British truck drivers freed after spending a month in a Turkish jail are due to return to London today. Graham Quinn, 44, and Tony Quinn, 43, from Bradford, and Peter Thomas, 46, of Bristol, were arrested on November 27 for allegedly attempting to leave Turkey with false documents. They had delivered computers to Istanbul and were returning with a cargo of T-shirts but were accused by Turkish customs officials of underloading their lorries so that manufacturers could receive export bonuses.

Yesterday the court in the border town of Edirne ruled that there was insufficient evidence to detain the men on the charge of imaginary exporting and ordered their release. A Foreign Office spokesman in London said that it was not clear whether the prosecution had been dropped. The case against the T-shirt manufacturers, Istanbul Textiles, continues.

Workers win £310m

Unions won nearly £310 million for members in legal awards last year, a rise of at least £29 million over 1991, according to the TUC's annual survey of union legal services. Most of the 123,000 cases taken up concerned personal injury at work. A trainee who lost both feet while cleaning a soap-mixing machine was awarded £102,000.

Hunger strike demand

A 34-year-old Liverpool man demanding a fresh enquiry into the use of thalidomide in the 1960s was joined on hunger strike yesterday by a fellow victim of the drug. Freddie Astbury, who began his fast on Christmas eve, said that he and Gary Skyner, 31, were prepared to die unless Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, agreed to meet them.

Budget 'has hit women'

The living standard of more than three million women working in the public sector will drop as a result of the Budget, the Labour Party claims. Harriet Harman, right, shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, said that 300,000 low-paid women must pay tax for the first time. Clare Short, MP, said up to 45,000 will find themselves better off on benefit than in work, tightening the poverty trap.

Dental patient dies

An inquest is expected to be opened this week into the death of a man who died after having four teeth taken out by a dentist. Christopher Quinn, 22, of Coventry, West Midlands, was put under a general anaesthetic by the dentist because he was afraid of the treatment. His father said last night that Mr Quinn hated going to the dentist.

Hypnotist's own goal

Thetford Town football players, who had lost all 14 games this season, conceding 58 goals, were hypnotised in an attempt to improve their luck. After a session with hypnotist John Dennis the team felt confident, but when they turned out against Mildenhall, chanting "We are winners", their luck had not changed: the team crashed 9-0.

Gap in house prices narrows

BY EDWARD GORMAN

THE gap in housing prices across the regions has narrowed significantly in the past year, according to a housing market survey published today.

In its annual review of the UK housing market, the Halifax Building Society says that price differentialshave stabilised and are at their narrowest for many years.

A house in the South is currently 15 per cent more expensive than the overall UK average, compared with 60 per cent in 1988. In the North houses are 15 per cent below the average, compared with 35 per cent in 1988.

In a more general assessment of the prospects for 1994, the society predicts a significant rise in activity in the next 12 months. "The days of boom and bust in the UK housing market are hopefully ended and we are seeing a return to housing being a safe, if not spectacular investment," the report says.

But the report notes that the aftermath of recession and fear of unemployment continue to dampen activity.

The Halifax predicts a steady rise in house moves in the year ahead together with a gradual increase in prices. Prices for the UK as a whole ended 2 per cent above their level at the beginning of the year. This time next year the Halifax predicts an annual rate of house price inflation of around 5 per cent.

Economic optimism, page 1

Snow halts drivers and sport

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

SNOW fell in many areas yesterday, causing problems for travellers and forcing the cancellation of sports events.

From early morning a blanket of snow covered the country from the Midlands northwards as warm air being blasted westwards by gale-force winds from the Atlantic met cold air in the east. As far south as Kent snow fell on high ground and black ice made driving conditions hazardous.

Stretches of the M42 around Birmingham were reduced to one lane and at least 17 vehicles were involved in a pile-up caused by the treacherous conditions.

Police in West Yorkshire described roads as atrocious and speed restrictions were in force on the M62 and M1. During the worst snowfall a police spokesman said: "It's very treacherous wherever you travel. If anybody is thinking of going out, please don't."

Leeds/Bradford airport was shut while snowploughs cleared the runway and flights had to be diverted.

The motoring organisations were deluged with calls. By 10am, the RAC had received 2,500 call-outs, about double the normal number.

Yesterday's rush continued what has been one of the busiest Christmas periods on record for the motoring organisations. The AA received 7,000 calls on Christmas Day, about double that of a normal winter day.

The Premiership football match between Coventry and Ipswich was one of the sporting casualties of the weather. Eight other matches were also postponed. In West Yorkshire the Wetherby race meeting was called off.

Thousands of skiers were turned back from Glenshee Ski Centre as high winds and blizzards closed many roads in the north of Scotland.

The access road to Glenshee from the south was blocked at the notorious Devil's Elbow. When it was opened just before midday the tailback of cars stretched for three miles.

Glenshee director David Stewart said conditions at the centre were good and 15 ski tows were open. But he added: "I hate to think how many cars have been turned back this morning; it was probably thousands."

Heavy rain and high winds were posing new problems for emergency services in Grampian, after a week of snow and ice. A number of country roads were closed.

In some parts of Dumfries and Galloway the snow was up to eight inches deep. Snowploughs worked to keep open the A74 Glasgow to Carlisle dual-carriageway. It was reduced to single-file traffic in the Beattock, Moffat and Lockerbie areas.

The Dalveen Pass, linking the A74 and the A76 Dumfries to Kilmarnock road, was also described as extremely hazardous for much of the day and there were blizzards in the Sanquhar and Kirkconnel areas.

Dumfries police said the main A75 Gretna to Stranraer Euro-route was difficult for several hours, with up to six inches of snow at Crocketford and Springholm.

Weathermen said that the blizzard conditions were only temporary and that for the rest of this year there should be bright and showery weather, with day-time temperatures about three degrees above normal. Strong winds from the west will continue.

Shopping on ice, page 5
Australian snow, page 7
Forecast and photograph, page 16

CORRECTION

A picture caption in yesterday's issue should have named Benazir Bhutto as Pakistan's Prime Minister, not its President. Another caption in the same issue wrongly identified Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, as Yitzhak Shamir, his predecessor.

Arrest after safari trip

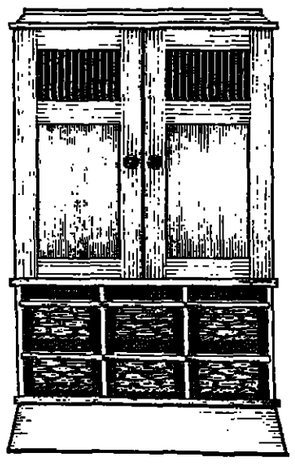
Continued from page 1

at the centre at a cost to council tax payers in Gloucestershire of £1,500 a week. Last night John Standing, Conservative councillor and spokesman on social services, said: "I am shattered and appalled by what has happened. We will have to think seriously about where we go in future with this youth."

He defended the decision of Gloucestershire social services to place the boy at the centre. "It would cost the county council between £1,800 and £2,000 a week to put him in local authority secure accommodation," he said. The teenager's mother refused to discuss the matter at her home on a council estate in Gloucester. When details of his trip were disclosed last week she said he was hating every minute of it.

The Government wants foreign trips for young offenders at taxpayers' expense to stop. David Maclean, a junior Home Office Minister, said that demanding and disciplined outdoor activities had a part to play in tackling offending behaviour, but that they should take place in the Cairngorms rather than in Spain and Portugal.

SMALLBONE
THE WINTER SALE



There has never been a better time to buy
SMALLBONE

Substantial reductions on all handmade kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms

For more information telephone
071 581 9989

LONDON · DEVIZES · HARROGATE · KNUTSFORD
LEAMINGTON SPA · TUNBRIDGE WELLS

مكبرة من الأصل

Suffolk cocaine seizure

Mafia muscles in on Britain's drug smuggling trade

BY STEWART TENDLER AND PHILIP WILLAN

THE Mafia has for the first time been directly linked to drug-smuggling into this country after the seizure of 250kg of cocaine at Felixstowe, Suffolk, last week.

A Mafia presence had already been established in Britain, used as a base to launder profits from crime or as a transfer point for drugs being smuggled to other countries. The seizure will call into question the view that the Mafia would probably be attracted to softer targets in eastern Europe, rather than London, as a destination for drugs.

In Italy earlier this month, Paul Condon, the Metropolitan police commissioner, met the judge supervising the drive against the Mafia. Although he is understood to have been advised that the Italian authorities believed the Mafia was working to expand into Russia and Hungary rather than the UK, he was warned that it was using London to launder money.

Two years ago British embassy staff in Rome issued a warning that this country could become a target for the Mafia. The authors of the report, a senior diplomat and a Scotland Yard officer on secondment with the Italian police, were accused of exaggerating the risks. Now, with the first evidence that the Mafia could be targeting Britain with big drugs consignments, that view might have to be revised.

Police and Customs officers have long accepted that the Mafia has a presence in Britain but its size and influence has been unclear. Intelligence had also suggested this country was being used principally to launder profits or as a transfer point for drugs on their way to other countries. There were few overt signs of the Mafia although the death of an Italian cocaine dealer in west London over a decade ago raised the possibility of a Mafia-style killing. Investigators in another case also uncovered an agricultural fraud stretching from Sicily to Britain.

■ The view that the Mafia would look to eastern Europe rather than London to expand its empire must now be revised

The first evidence that the presence might be more potent came in the 1980s when Customs officers broke up a heroin smuggling ring linked to Montreal.

Francesco Di Carlo, who had been living under cover in Surrey, was jailed for 25 years in 1987 as the head of a racket moving heroin worth £75 million.

Di Carlo, who had lived undisturbed in Woking after being exiled from Sicily after being demoted from the island's Mafia leadership, had been able to build up a series of businesses and other smuggling interests in Britain, apart from the heroin trade. The investigators discovered that an even more powerful figure had been living in luxury in a country mansion and had fled before he could be arrested.

Di Carlo: serving 25-year sentence

Police believe Di Carlo's mantle passed to another chieftain who remains in London. A second Mafia figure operates as a successful businessman and also still works in Britain.

The thrust of Mafia operations had hitherto been identified as harnessing London's huge financial markets to move or conceal Mafia cash. Scotland Yard recently detected what it believes are attempts by the Mafia to buy works of art as long-term investments for dirty money.

Earlier this year, a colonel from the anti-Mafia squad in Rome visited London to examine files on suspected Mafia fraud and laundering operations. He was sufficiently concerned by his findings to recommend the appointment of an Italian officer to work full-time with the unit in London.

The cocaine cache now raises new dangers. Since the beginning of the 1990s, American and European experts on the Mafia have been concerned that the Sicilian network of gangs which makes up the modern Mafia could be seeking to expand.

Italian investigators said that the Mafia would capitalise on the reduction of frontier controls and trade restrictions within the European Union. In the United States, federal agents issued warnings about alliances between the Mafia and the Colombian cartels.

Cartels move into Europe

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

AMERICAN and European anti-drug officials say the links between the Mafia and Colombian drug cartels are responsible for most of the cocaine in Western Europe.

Up to 300 tonnes a year of Colombian cocaine is shipped into Western Europe via islands in the Caribbean. The US Drug Enforcement Administration says the cartels have been poised for some time to exploit the relaxed border controls in Europe, where cocaine prices are three times higher on average than in the US. They claim that despite repeated warnings, Europe is not prepared to deal with growing cocaine consumption.

Police believe that the Mafia and other Italian groups, including the 'Ndrangheta in Calábria, have developed strong networks in Colombia and Venezuela. "We understand that a lot of cocaine is going through Venezuela en route to Europe and a lot is ending up in Sicily," Tony Attanasio, a DEA Mafia expert in Miami, said.

Increasing numbers of cocaine shipments to Europe have been detected in the past two years. In May 1992, 2,200lb of cocaine sent via Venezuela was discovered in a cargo of lead at Felixstowe, Suffolk.

A popular smuggling route is from ports in Galicia, Spain, overland to Italy. Some cargoes have been sent direct to Sicily for redistribution by sea to countries including Britain.

Foxy Loxy, believed to be epileptic, playing in ferns. The cub had been hand-fed when he was found abandoned

Hunt kills farmworker's pet fox

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

A FARMWORKER yesterday described how a pack of hounds burst into his garden and killed a pet fox cub which he had hand-raised after finding it abandoned.

Peter Jolliffe, 26, watched from a window as the hounds savaged the eight-month-old animal, tethered to a kennel. Huntsmen bundled the carcass into a bag and rode off, he said. Mr Jolliffe plans to take action against the Tedworth Hunt from Pewsey, Wiltshire.

Captain Rupert Inglesant, the hunt master, later apologised for the killing. He said the fox had been running on a boundary between farmland and the garden when it was caught. Capt Inglesant, 29, said: "If I could undo what happened I would. I found the carcass and didn't see what happened but someone told me a nearby resident owned a semi-tame fox. I hadn't a clue if the fox I found was the tame one or the one we had been hunting."

He added: "I went to see the gentleman and apologised for any inconvenience. He was very emotional and understandably so. But it was a genuine mistake and a very embarrassing incident."

Mr Jolliffe had kept the cub, called Foxy Loxy, at his home in Upavon since finding it when it was two months old. It was disabled and of stunted growth but Mr Jolliffe bottle-fed it.

He said his vet believed the fox was epileptic and would not have survived without him. "We became best buddies," he said. "He was about a third of a fox's normal size — a real pathetic specimen. I took him for walks on a lead. I kept him tethered to a dog kennel in the garden." Arlin Rickard, spokesman for the British Field Sports Society, said only one dog killed the fox as the others had been pulled back when the hunt reached a boundary between farmland and gardens. He said: "The dead fox was discovered on farmland outside the garden. It must have been running back to its home."

Jolliffe saw "best buddy" cub die

☐ Organisers of the Bramham Moor Hunt could face claims for damages after hounds caused an accident when they ran across the A1 at Aberford, near Leeds. Five dogs were killed, several others were injured and two cars were extensively damaged. The Boxing Day meet of the Taunton Vale Hunt was abandoned when two hounds were killed by a train after straying on to a railway line at Bradford-on-Tone, Somerset.

Woman, 83, shut up for two days in wardrobe

BY LIN JENKINS

A WOMAN aged 83 almost died after being sexually assaulted and barricaded in a wardrobe for two days over the Christmas holiday.

The 83-year-old woman was rescued by her nephew who visited her council flat in Southwark, southeast London, on Christmas Eve. He called police when he failed to get a reply.

The spinster was discovered dehydrated and in a state of shock when police broke into her flat. They found her in a built-in wardrobe that had been barricaded with furniture.

Det Inspector Tony Cottis said: "Had it not been for the caring relative on a Christmas visit this might have been a murder enquiry."

The woman, who was in an extremely distressed condition, was taken to Guy's Hospital. She was later discharged to spend Christmas with other members of her family.

Police believe that the attacker entered her home as she returned from a shopping trip last Wednesday. He pushed his way into her bedroom, pulled her down on the bed and indecently assaulted her before pushing her into the wardrobe.

Detectives have been unable to discover if the man followed the woman into her flat or was laying in wait inside the premises. There were no signs of forced entry.

"The perpetrator of this crime is of a callous mind and gave no thought to the woman's welfare," Mr Cottis said.

"This is a particularly ruthless and tasteless attack on a frail,defenceless victim. She was imprisoned without food or drink and had she not been discovered she would undoubtedly have died."

The woman has lived in the fifth floor flat for nearly 30 years. She gave a brief description of her attacker as black, fairly tall and wearing dark clothing.

☐ A 22-year-old man is in hospital after he was attacked by seven men at Fitzwilliam station, near Pontefract, West Yorkshire, while returning home with his brother after a Christmas Eve drink. He suffered severe head injuries and several broken bones after being kicked and punched.

British barman shot dead in US

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

A 28-YEAR-OLD Briton shot dead in an apparent robbery in Washington DC four days before Christmas has been identified as Adam Fox, who worked as a barman.

Police have launched a murder enquiry after he was shot in the stomach as he left a bar to catch a taxi. His body was found by a policeman, but was not identified for three days until friends became concerned when he failed to turn up for work.

Mr Fox is believed to have first moved to the United States about seven years ago and worked in bars and nightclubs. His family lives in Edgware, north London, and are making arrangements to have his body flown home.

Douglas Plain, a friend, said he saw Mr Fox early on December 21 as he hailed a cab to go home. Minutes later he heard gunfire. He said that when he went back toward the intersection where he had last seen Mr Fox there was no sign of him and he thought Mr Fox had taken a cab home.

Mr Plain said that on Christmas Eve two police told him the body of a man had been found. He later identified him as Mr Fox.

Police said the body was found three blocks from where Mr Plain said he last saw Mr Fox alive. His wallet and black leather jacket were missing.

Washington police confirmed that a murder enquiry had been launched, but would not comment on whether Mr Fox was shot by a mugger.

Adam Fox: body not identified for three days

AA recovers member's car from Red Square

BY A STAFF REPORTER

COLIN Barrell thought that he was destined to lose his classic Cadillac when it broke down in Moscow's Red Square.

He could find no way to get it back to Britain until he contacted the Automobile Association, which he had joined two weeks earlier. The organisation rescued the 19ft 6in car, towing it across more than 1,800 miles in the biggest "relay" it had ever carried out.

Mr Barrell, who runs a funeral and wedding car service in Portsmouth, Hampshire, was driving his £16,000 Cadillac on a classic car expedition to Moscow to take toys and clothes for the children of Chernobyl.

"I had actually reached Red Square when the gearbox suddenly packed up and oil spewed out down the road," he said last night.

The Cadillac also had a puncture and while he was changing the wheel, some children climbed inside and stole £1,000.

"I had joined the AA Five Star European service just 14 days earlier, but when I rang their headquarters in France they said they couldn't help because I was outside Europe.

"On the off-chance, I phoned the AA in Basingstoke and someone there said they saw it as a challenge and would give it a go. They told me to get on a plane home and leave the rest to them. I was flabbergasted."

An AA spokesman said yesterday: "It was certainly the most ambitious rescue we have ever undertaken. The journey took eight days."

BACK TO THE FUTURE

"Yesterday's trends and fads find themselves coming back into fashion even before they've had the chance to book a holiday. Which is exactly why we can expect a real hoo-ha over the return of the mini skirt."

Iain R.Webb predicts the return of the mini and joins Matthew Parris, Trevor Dann, Frances Bissell, Giles Gordon and other Times experts looking forward to what's in store in 1994.

GREENE'S JOTTINGS

Graham Greene used to scribble remarks in the margins of the books he read. Christopher Hawtree has been granted exclusive access.

This Saturday in The Times Magazine

UP TO 50% OFF AT SIMPSON'S SALE. (TOO GENEROUS BY HALF.)

OPEN TODAY 9AM-6PM TOMORROW UNTIL 7PM

At Simpson's Winter Sale the season of goodwill stretches all the way from 27th December to 29th January. With prices cut by up to a half on DAKS and other quality men's and women's wear it seems our generosity knows no bounds. You can even get 30% discount on famous designer names like Guy Laroche, Betty Barclay and Fenn Wright and Manson. So come to Simpson's Sale before we come to our senses.

FROM OUR LADIES' RANGE	WERE NOW	FROM OUR MEN'S RANGE	WERE NOW
DAKS duffle coats	£265 £129	DAKS blazers	£299 £149
DAKS jackets	£289 £159	DAKS suits	£399 £199
Donnna two pieces	£259 £159	DAKS trousers	£99 £69
Pringle cashmere sweaters	£137.50 £90	Cotton business shirts	£39.95 £29.95

Simpson Piccadilly Winter Sale. 203 Piccadilly, London, W1. From Monday 27th December.
DAKS Sale. 183 Sloane Street. Starts today. Open 10am - 7pm.

Simpson
071-734 2002 PICCADILLY

Keeping criminals out of prison fails to reform them

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PROBATION and community service punishment has not proved more effective than prison in stopping re-offending, according to a report published today.

The findings will create controversy within the penal affairs lobby, which has repeatedly stressed that punishment in the community is effective and it will provide Home Office ministers with ammunition to answer critics of their law and order strategy and its emphasis on imprisonment.

Adam Sampson, deputy director of the Prison Reform Trust, questions the effectiveness of community penalties in a report which undermines some claims made in support of non-custodial punishment.

"Despite the claims of the probation service, there is little evidence that probation and community service are more effective than prison in preventing re-offending," Mr Sampson says in the report.

He says 57 per cent of men and 40 per cent of women discharged from prison in 1987 were reconvicted of a further offence within two years. The comparative figures for those given probation in 1987 were 56 per cent of men and 37 per cent of women, and for those given community service 55 per cent and 41 per cent respectively.

The figures for those under 21 released from prison and reconvicted within two years were 71 per cent of males and 51 per cent of females compared with 66 per cent males and 41 per cent females who were given probation; for those given community service, the figures were 65 and 43 per cent respectively.

Mr Sampson says that although the re-offending rate of those released from prison has exceeded that for offenders sentenced to community penalties, there is growing realisation that the differential between the two methods is not that large.

However, the report, entitled *Does Prison Work?*, challenges the claim by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, that prison works and adds that it is useful neither as a deterrent nor as a means of rehabilitating prisoners.

Maclean: no "magical community" solution

Mr Sampson's figures on reconviction rates suggest that there is little that works in curbing re-offending, though punishment in the community, the philosophy underpinning government policies during the late 1980s, remains an attractive option to the Treasury because of the savings in costs.

In 1991-92, it cost £1,915 a month to keep a person in custody compared with £100 for a probation order and £95 for a community service order.

David Maclean, a junior Home Office minister, said the figures showed there was no "magical community" solution to dealing with offenders. "The presumption of some people to re-offend is just as great if they get a community sentence than if they are sent to prison.

"Up to 25 per cent of those who have been given a community sentence are reconvicted within 12 months while they are still serving the community sentence."

☐ Almost 90,000 offences against prison discipline, including assaults on prison officers, were punished last year, the highest for a decade.

HUGH PINNEY

John Davy and Barry Ranger, security guards, patrolling the corridors of the 1,000-bed Southmead Hospital, Bristol, on mountain bikes to give them extra mobility in the fight to cut down crime on the sprawling 67-acre site

Loch Ness study makes light of monster legend

■ Scientists have found that Loch Ness contains too little food to support the huge creature made popular by local mythology

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Loch Ness monster has been cut down to size by scientific studies that show there is not enough food in the loch to keep a predator of *Jurassic Park* dimensions alive.

Adrian Shine, a naturalist who leads the Loch Ness Project in Drumnadrochit on the banks of the Highland loch, said if there was a monster at all, it was probably a Baltic sturgeon with a poor sense of direction.

Mr Shine's researches will be aided next year by a submarine in the loch. Alan Whitfield, the owner of the 20 ft vessel, will also be offering £70 tourist trips to the bottom of the loch. "This will be the ultimate monster hunt," he said. "We'll be looking in caves and overhangs and, who knows, we could come eyeball to eyeball with the monster."

New research, to be published soon in a special edition of *The Scottish Naturalist*, does not address the monster issue directly but casts new light on it. Calculations of the total mass of fish in the loch, by two methods, suggest that it cannot be greater than 20 to 30 tonnes. Normal rule-of-thumb suggests that resident predators could amount to no more than a tenth of that. No viable population could exist with fewer than about ten members, for reasons of genetic variability. This means that each "monster" could weigh no more than about 200 kg, which represents a length of six to nine feet.

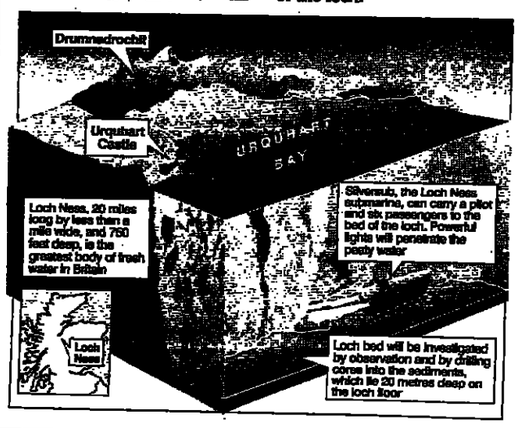
Mr Shine believes that most of the sightings of humped creatures are actually the wakes of boats, but he is reluctant to dismiss all sightings. He pointed out that the legend of a giant fish long anticipated the monster stories that have made Loch Ness a tourist attraction. His favourite candidate is the Baltic sturgeon, a sea fish that enters fresh water to breed and spawn. It has a reptilian appearance, with a dorsal fin set towards its tail. Sturgeon can be more than nine ft long and can weigh 200 kg.

Mr Shine said: "Sturgeon are very rare visitors to British waters, but it isn't impossible to imagine one blundering up the River Ness into the loch in search of a mate, and failing to find one. This is the sort of thing that could have started the tradition. But it would be rather nice to think I am wrong."

The most striking finding of the research is that the loch's ecology may be dominated not by green plants — as lakes normally are — but by the breakdown of organic material that flows into it from the surrounding hills.

Boreholes drilled into the loch floor have revealed layers of sediment, like the rings in a tree, which may contain information of great geological and climatological importance. The waters at the bed are so still that the layers are undisturbed, creating a year-by-year record. "This could give us a wonderful picture going right back to the Ice Age," Mr Shine said.

The submarine will help with the coring project and observing Arctic char, the commonest fish in the loch. It is rated for use at depths of up to 1,000 ft, so should have no trouble penetrating the 750 ft of the loch.



Theatres face year of financial drama

BY ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

MANCHESTER begins a year-long festival of drama this week, billed as the biggest theatrical extravaganza Britain has seen. But two of the city's theatres face grant cuts that will make 1994 more a year of economising than of celebrating.

The irony has not escaped the City of Drama festival organisers or Manchester City Council, which wields the axe. Although the festival's £10 million budget — part of the Arts 2000 project — is allowing Manchester to refurbish venues and create new ones, there is little it can do to help the Library and Forum theatres.

Despite previous fears, Manchester's oldest repertory theatre, the Library Theatre, will not close next year. However, with £100,000 cut from its grant and another £100,000 set to go in 1995, it will find the year tough. It had absorbed a cut of £220,000 last March — roughly the amount put into the 1994 festival by the council.

The future is equally unsure for the Forum Theatre. It has been kept open through temporary sponsorship from Manchester City Airport.

Julian Sleath, City of Drama project manager, said that the grant reduction — the result of wider local authority spending cutbacks — comes as a blow. "Obviously this has not coincided well with the festival and we are still campaigning for the theatres. We can give them political help, but no financial aid," he said.

The City of Drama year, funded by the Arts Council, local authorities, the Manchester Development Corporation and a host of private sponsors, will open on Friday with an operatic gala concert featuring extracts from *Carmen*, *Madame Butterfly* and *Porgy and Bess*.

An attempt to break the record for conga dancing — around the Town Hall — will also take place, fitting neatly into the stated aim of the festival: to lower the barriers between high and low art.

The National Theatre takes Tony Kushner's acclaimed three-part homosexual fantasia to Manchester next month at the Contact Theatre, and David Hare's *Racing Demon*, first seen at the National Theatre on London's South Bank, is on at the Library Theatre.

New venues brought to life by the festival include the Upper Campfield Market, converted into a large-scale performance space, and a 400-seat Dancehouse Theatre in a former 1930s cinema.

Elsewhere in Manchester, a new £42 million international concert hall, to be home to the Hallé Orchestra, is being built independently of the festival. The building will be constructed on springs to soundproof the space from traffic noise and the vibrations of the city's Metrolink tram service.

Hare: festival will show *Racing Demon*

ALL STORES OPEN TODAY
MANY STORES OPEN NEW YEARS DAY
Check with your local store for details.

Currys
KITCHEN APPLIANCE
SALE

HOTPOINT
800 Spin Autowasher
LOWEST PRICE HOTPOINT AUTOWASHER IN U.K.
• 11lb wash load
• No heat economy wash
• Quick wash facility
Model 9506W. Was £349.99
BUY NOW PAY JULY
SALE PRICE £299.99 SAVE £50

SAVE UP TO 25% ON EVERYTHING
INCLUDES LAUNDRY, DISHWASHERS, REFRIGERATION, COOKERS, MICROWAVES & VACUUMS

ZANUSSI ▶
Delta Full Size 'Aquasave' Dishwasher
• Takes 12 place settings
• 6 programmes
Model DW915. Was £439.99
BUY NOW PAY JULY
SALE PRICE £399.99 SAVE £40

◀ CANDY
9.8 c.u. ft. Fridge Freezer
• 5.7 cu.ft. fridge
• 4.1 cu.ft. freezer
• 4-star freezer rating
Model CCM28/12. Was £399.99
BUY NOW PAY JULY
SALE PRICE £299.99 SAVE £100

SAVE UP TO £120 ON AUTOWASHERS

PHILCO
1100 Spin Autowasher
• 15 programme options
Model 1890. Was £429.99.
ONLY AVAILABLE AT CURRYS
BUY NOW PAY JULY
SALE PRICE £329.99 SAVE £100

WHITE KNIGHT 1000 Spin Autowasher Model WM1000E. Was £399.99. BUY NOW PAY JULY — SAVE £120 — SALE PRICE £279.99
PHILCO ECOTRONIC 1800 Spin Autowasher. Model WM1892. Was £529.99. 18 MONTHS 0% INTEREST. ONLY AVAILABLE AT CURRYS. 20% DEPOSIT, 18 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £14.22 — SAVE £10 — SALE PRICE £319.99
ZANUSSI 800 Spin Autowasher Model FL881. Was £429.99. (Price from 3.12.93). BUY NOW PAY JULY — SAVE £100 — SALE PRICE £329.99
HOTPOINT DIAMOND 1000 Spin Autowasher Model 9577W. Was £499.99 BUY NOW PAY JULY — SAVE £120 — SALE PRICE £379.99
PHILCO SOFTLINE ECOTRONIC 1300 Spin Autowasher. Model 2001S. Was £599.99. 18 MONTHS 0% INTEREST. ONLY AVAILABLE AT CURRYS. 20% DEPOSIT 18 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £16.66 — SAVE £30 — SALE PRICE £369.99

SAVE UP TO £125 ON WASHERDRYERS
PHILCO ECOTRONIC 1000 Spin Washerdryer Model WD1896. Was £499.99. BUY NOW PAY JULY — SAVE £125 — SALE PRICE £374.99
HOTPOINT DIAMOND 1000 Spin Aquarius Washerdryer Model 9972WIA. Was £549.99. BUY NOW PAY JULY — SAVE £70 — SALE PRICE £479.99

SAVE UP TO £100 ON DISHWASHERS
HOTPOINT DIAMOND Aquarius Full Size Dishwasher Model 7872W. Was £379.99. BUY NOW PAY JULY — SAVE £30 — SALE PRICE £349.99
PHILCO ECOTRONIC Slimline Dishwasher Model 1908E. Was £469.99. BUY NOW PAY JULY — SAVE £100 — SALE PRICE £269.99
WHIRLPOOL Full Size Dishwasher Model ADP1367. Was £349.99 — SAVE £50 — SALE PRICE £299.99

SAVE UP TO £100 ON REFRIGERATION

FRIGIDAIRE
5.4 cu.ft. Fridge
• Push button defrost
• 2 salad crispers
• Interior light
Model 1521. Was £149.99.
SAVE £20
SALE PRICE £129.99

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Fridge Model R41. Was £179.99 — SAVE £40 — SALE PRICE £139.99
FRIGIDAIRE 5.4 cu.ft. Larder Fridge Model 1581. Was £199.99. — SAVE £50 — SALE PRICE £149.99
ZANUSSI DELTA 5.0 cu.ft. Fridge Model ZF5002. Was £209.99. BUY NOW PAY JULY — SAVE £40 — SALE PRICE £169.99
HOTPOINT DIAMOND 8.2 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer Model 8329W. Was £339.99 BUY NOW PAY JULY — SAVE £60 — CURRYS PRICE £279.99
FRIGIDAIRE 8.6 cu.ft. Frost Free Fridge Freezer Model RF268. Was £399.99. BUY NOW PAY JULY — SAVE £100 — SALE PRICE £299.99
FRIGIDAIRE 11.0 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer Model 3493. Was £399.99. BUY NOW PAY JULY — SAVE £70 — SALE PRICE £329.99
ZANUSSI 9.3 cu.ft. Frost Free Fridge Freezer Model ZF47/51FF. Was £489.99. BUY NOW PAY JULY — SAVE £20 — SALE PRICE £469.99

SAVE UP TO £100 ON COOKERS
BELLING Electric Slot-in Cooker Model 3155. Was £499.99. BUY NOW PAY JULY — SAVE £100 — SALE PRICE £399.99
ZANUSSI Dual Fuel Slot-in Cooker Model MCS634. Was £509.99. BUY NOW PAY JULY — SAVE £50 — SALE PRICE £459.99
CREDA Ceramic Slot-in Cooker Model 484134. Was £719.99. BUY NOW PAY JULY — SAVE £50 — SALE PRICE £669.99
HOTPOINT Ceramic Slot-in Cooker Model 6525B. Was £799.99. BUY NOW PAY JULY — SAVE £70 — SALE PRICE £729.99

CREDA
'Commodore' Slot-in Electric Cooker
• Solid plate hob
• Self cleaning oven liners
• Storage compartment
Model 49113. Was £299.99.
BUY NOW PAY JULY
SALE PRICE £229.99 SAVE £70

BUY NOW PAY JULY
OR 18 MONTHS 0% INTEREST ON A WIDE RANGE OF SALE BARGAINS
SEE IN-STORE FOR DETAILS
Pay 20% deposit and nothing more until July. Then, either settle balance in full by your first payment date with no interest or repay the balance by monthly instalments. Typical example: Cash price £349.99, 20% deposit £69.99, balance £279.99 followed by 17 monthly payments of £15.85, commencing July 1994. Total credit price £339.77, APR 22.8% (variable) by direct debit. Interest will be charged from your first payment date in full if balance is not settled in full by then. Offer applies (when you apply for a Currys Budget Card, subject to status. Applicants must be 18 or over (21 or over in Northern Ireland). Not available to trade purchasers.

LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED
We will refund the difference on the spot, if you can find the same product, with the same offer, cheaper locally. Just come back to us within 7 days of purchase, with the details. The product must be new, complete and available for immediate delivery. This guarantee excludes mail order price/offers

Currys
SALE NOW ON
Better Service and low, low prices guaranteed
HIGH ST. STORES NATIONWIDE PLUS AROUND 140 SUPERSTORES WITH LATE OPENING. RING 081 200 0200 FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE.
Written quotations from Currys, Dept MK, 5458 High St, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 7EQ. Currys are licensed credit brokers. Other terms apply in S Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight. Ask in store for details.

مكبّرة من الأصل

Smokers face bigger tax burden in fight to cut death toll

BY LIN JENKINS

CIGARETTES will attract higher tax to ensure that prices rise above the rate of inflation as part of a £12 million anti-smoking campaign launched yesterday.

The government plan to use price as a deterrent is aimed at adults and follows research which suggests that every 10 per cent rise in the real price of cigarettes leads to a drop of more than 5 per cent in the number of smokers.

Brian Mawhinney, the Health Minister, said that the three-year campaign was aimed at reducing the number of working days lost each year and the death toll caused by smoking.

According to government statistics, 50 million working days were lost each year and 110,000 people died prematurely because of smoking-related diseases.

"The UK already has an impressive record in reducing smoking from 45 per cent of the population in 1974 to 30 per cent now," Dr Mawhinney said. "However, smoking has such a devastating effect on health that we must reduce prevalence further. The price of tobacco is an important part of that strategy."

The real price of a packet of cigarettes has risen 67 per cent since 1978-79. This year the price rose 21p a packet and the Chancellor announced that the real level of tobacco duties would rise by at least 3 per cent a year on average.

Recent anti-smoking campaigns have been aimed at children but the results have been disappointing. The focus on adults follows research which suggests that children of non-smoking parents are two and a half times less likely to smoke than children whose parents smoke. Children are also seven times less likely to smoke if they perceive strong parental disapproval.

Dr Mawhinney said the campaign would also concentrate on the the dangers of passive smoking. He said there was evidence that one person a day who does not smoke dies from lung cancer as a result of inhaling other people's tobacco smoke over many years. Dr Mawhinney claimed that 50 children aged under five were admitted to hospital each day suffering from symptoms of passive smoking.

The results of a survey released yesterday show that nearly nine in ten former smokers had tried to quit at least once before they were successful and one in five had sought help in giving up.

The survey, conducted by Gallup for Pharmacia Ltd, found that most smokers were not happy with their habit and 73 per cent wanted to give up.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Health Secretary, said: "A ban on tobacco advertising and promotion is an essential first step in any serious campaign to prevent young people from smoking."

Ross Parry

GRIMETHORPE Colliery Band rehearsing, perhaps prophetically, a piece called *The Last Jerusalem*. The future of the band is in doubt following the closure of the pit. British Coal has promised reduced sponsorship into next year, but after that financial support is unlikely. Four of the 27 musicians are still employed by the company but the others have had to seek work elsewhere since the south Yorkshire pit closed in May. The band is seeking sponsors to help with the £60,000 annual running costs. Mr Ken Hurst, the band's secretary, said yesterday: "We want to keep Grimethorpe Colliery in the name if we can, but it depends on who we find to support us." Mr Hirst said that it would mean an end to foreign trips and daytime midweek engagements because members cannot get time off work.

Snow puts bargain hunting on ice

BY ROBIN YOUNG

YESTERDAY'S snow, sleet and rain dampened customers' enthusiasm for bargain hunting when the winter sales started yesterday.

In Regent Street, London, Liberty was the principal newcomer to the ranks of the price-cutting emporia. There were none of Monday's crowded pavements and traffic jams. By mid-morning nearby car parks still had spaces and the streets were no busier than before Christmas.

There was some pushing and shoving just inside Liberty's front doors where newcomers attempting to shake wet coats and umbrellas clashed with shoppers picking over trays of cut-price silk scarves, shawls and handkerchiefs. Upstairs even the rainwear department was short of customers compared with previous years.

In Tottenham Court Road, where the furnishing stores Habitat and Heal's started their sales, it was still possible at midday to park outside the shops. The floors were reasonably full but customers could circulate without jostling.

Martin Barnet of the Marble Arch Retailers' Association said: "The weather has emptied the streets. Yesterday we were busy. Today it is dead."

Some stores, such as Dickins & Jones, have announced that there will be further reductions from many sale prices on Saturday, which is New Year's Day.

Many customers in West End stores could be heard planning return trips for mid-January when final reductions come into effect. The general opinion was that many shopkeepers will still have plenty of stock on their hands then.

In Birmingham, blizzards and icy roads kept sales shoppers away. Shopping streets which had been packed on Monday were almost empty and city centre roads deserted.

The weather also cut the numbers of shoppers in centres such as Leeds, Manchester, and Liverpool.

Sales starting today include: Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London, SW1; Peter Jones, Sloane Square, London, SW1; Beatties, Victoria Street, Wolverhampton, and branches at Aylesbury, Birkenhead, Burton-on-Trent, Dudley, Northampton, Solihull, Sutton Coldfield and Worcester; Jenners, Princes Street, Edinburgh; Austin Reed, City of London branches; Caroline Charles, Beauchamp Place, London, SW3; Edina Ronay, King's Road, London, SW3.

YESTERDAY'S BEST BUYS

Liberty

Wool suits (Ralph Lauren, Armani, Kenzo, Vivienne Westwood, Nicole Farhi)	£295 reduced to £195
Katherine Hamnett, Bella Freud, Betty Jackson, Mulberry	all one third off
Descamps towelling	all half price
44 piece cutlery canteen	30% off
	£350 reduced to £225

Heal's

Tableware	30 per cent off
Dining table	£669 reduced to £595
King-size bed frame	£809 reduced to £515
Feather and down duvets	£79.95 reduced to £67.95

Habitat

Imported crockery	half price
Bed and mattress	£848 cut to £699
Table and two chairs	£177 reduced to £125
Bed linen	20 per cent off

Photograph, page 1
Alan Coren, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Quarrelling couple set on fire

BY EDWARD GORMAN

A HUSBAND and wife were seriously ill last night after apparently dousing each other in petrol and setting themselves alight during an argument.

Two policemen suffered burns to their hands when they dragged Les and Michelle Beattie from a blazing bedroom at their home in Cramlington, Northumberland.

The police were called in the early hours yesterday by a relative who heard the couple arguing. When they arrived they found Mr and Mrs Beattie's five-year-old daughter being comforted by the relative, and then heard a loud explosion and screams upstairs. The fire gutted the top floor of the house.

Mrs Beattie, 30, who suffered 40 per cent burns, was in a critical condition last night at Newcastle General Hospital. Mr Beattie, 36, who has 30 per cent burns, was described as very ill.

Friends said that Mr Beattie had taken voluntary redundancy from his job as an assembly line worker at the Nissan car plant at Washington, Tyne and Wear, earlier this month.

Slow track for round globe trip

BY KEVIN EASON

THE start of a round-the-world drive started at a crawl yesterday for six drivers who aim to complete the 15,000-mile London to New York trek by March 31.

In keeping with their brief that all miles covered have to be on land, the team's two Ford Mondeos were pulled through the Channel tunnel by diesel-powered trucks. With frequent stops to let through other service vehicles working in the 30-mile tunnel, the trip took just over three hours, an average speed of little over 10mph.

Once in France, the team turned south for Paris and encountered fierce driving snow, a foretaste of what is to come as the team heads across Siberia to the Bering Straits where temperatures will fall to -40C.

Today, they have a 700-mile drive to Berlin before going on to Warsaw, then Minsk for New Year's Day.

Richard Creasey, the expedition's leader, said from Paris last night: "The journey through the tunnel was absolutely crucial. We had to go through on wheels if we were to make this the first properly overland journey."

One million books for sale. Many of them less than half price.

DILLONS THE BOOKSTORE

There's never been a better time to discover the delights of Dillons. This is the most amazing book sale Britain has ever seen. Across the country we have a massive 1,000,000 books down in price. It's really so big, you can't miss it.

Dillons lower book prices.

A Pentos Company

You will find Dillons bookstores in Aberdeen, Aylesbury, Belfast, Birmingham (7 stores), Bournemouth, Brighton (Hatchards), Bristol, Bromley, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester (Hatchards), Chichester, Colchester, Coventry, Crawley, Croydon, Darlington, Dublin (Hodges Figgis), Ealing, Exeter, Finchley, Gateshead (Athena Bookshop), Glasgow, Hanley, Harrogate, Hatfield, Inverness, Ipswich (Hatchards), Kings Lynn (Athena Bookshop), Kingston, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London (25 stores), Maidstone (Hatchards), Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth, Richmond (Hatchards), Sheffield, Southampton, Southend, St. Albans, Stirling, Sutton, Thurrock, Tunbridge Wells, Watford, Winchester, Wolverhampton and York. Sale also on at Claude Gill Bargain Bookshops.

Truants from inner cities groomed to be entrepreneurs

■ A course imported from the United States will give streetwise youngsters the chance to learn business skills

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TEENAGE truants are to be trained as entrepreneurs under a scheme imported from the United States that aims to break the dependency culture of the inner cities.

Difficult pupils will be taught essential business skills — from understanding the *Financial Times* to drawing up contracts and registering a company — and then encouraged to start their own small firms.

The first course will start in Kensington and Chelsea, west London, in the new year. Its organisers, the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship, expect the scheme to expand quickly across the country.

Westminster council is already involved in plans to start a course for single mothers on one of the capital's most deprived housing estates.

The schemes are based on the belief that inner-city youngsters possess the raw ingredients required to succeed in business. By confronting risk each day, they learn to become resilient, creative, observant, self-reliant and calm in adversity — the hallmarks of successful entrepreneurs.

More than 15,000 students from deprived areas have graduated from its courses in the United States since 1987, with more than half either running their own businesses or in work within six months.

The foundation has already secured the support of leading educationalists and industrialists in Britain, including Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach, formerly the Government's senior adviser on examinations.

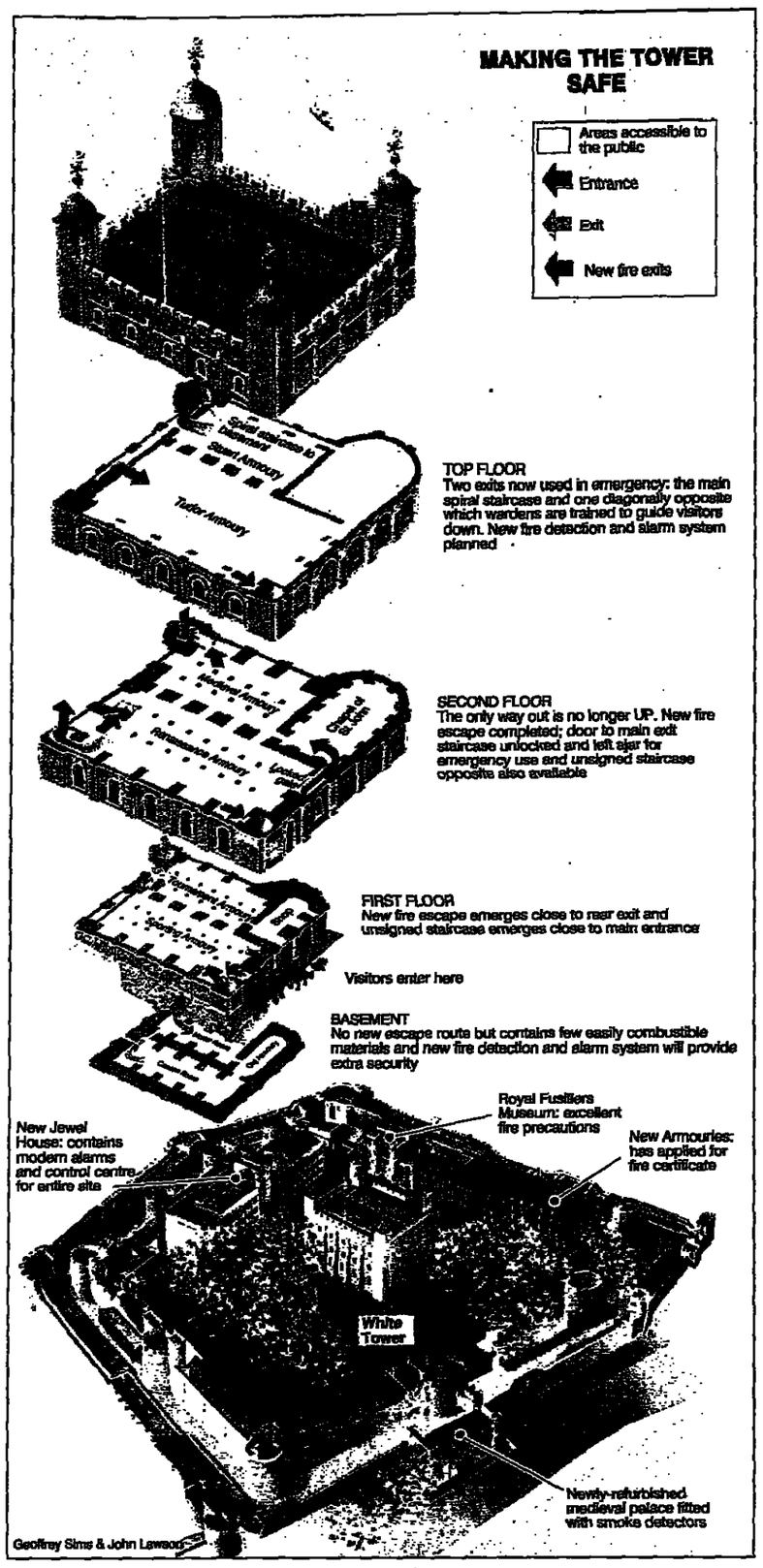
Silvia Pearson, director of the foundation, said that in the past decade small firms with fewer than 20 employees had created more than 1.5 million jobs in Britain, compared with 150,000 by large companies. "This scheme recognises that small business is the power engine of the economy," she said. "Teaching children about entrepreneurship is vital both for their future as well as the country's."

Miss Pearson said the scheme aimed to break the slavery engendered by the welfare state, helping people to break away from dependency on social security.

The foundation has designed the course to teach students how to start, finance and manage their own companies. It involves 60 hours of lessons about marketing, book-keeping and production skills and 20 hours of field trips. Each student receives a kit containing business aids, including a calculator, personal organiser and sales receipts. Tutors spend 50 hours at the end of the course checking on the progress of each student.

About 15 students aged 14 and 15 with poor attendance and behaviour records will take the course.

Letters, page 13



Tower's fire risks tackled after Times campaign

BY TONY DAWE AND JACK CROSSLEY

THE Tower of London is being made safer for its 2¼ million annual visitors after a campaign by *The Times* that highlighted fire risks in Britain's most popular historic attraction and other Crown properties.

The greatest improvements are being made in the White Tower, condemned as a potential firetrap after a survey for *The Times*. There will be a new fire escape inside the 900-year-old building for tourists on the second floor. Previously they would have had to go up a winding staircase to the third floor to reach an exit.

The dangers had been allowed to develop at the Tower because, like Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, the Palace of Westminster and most government offices, it has Crown immunity from prosecution under the fire protection laws. MPs on the Commons public accounts committee accused the Government of hiding behind Crown immunity and adopting an "outrageous, cynical and dangerous" approach to the safety of employees and the public. Within days of the *Times* investigation, the Home Office promised to re-examine the policy in a review of fire safety legislation.

The Chief Fire Officers' Association told the Home Office in a letter: "The removal of Crown immunity from as many premises as possible must be a top priority and responsibility for fire safety in them should be placed in the hands of local fire authorities as soon as possible."

The Government is providing £4.5 million over three years for the improvements at the Tower. A control centre, which will alert staff to any emergency on the site, has just opened in the new Jewel House, which will open to the public in the spring.

The White Tower was criticised for its lack of fire alarms and insufficient emergency exits and signs by Ian Jerome of the Fire Protection Association, who surveyed the building for *The Times*.

He was particularly concerned at arrangements on the second floor, which can contain up to 1,000 visitors during peak periods. The new fire escape at the back of the Renaissance armoury, which occupies half the second floor, will take visitors down to the first floor close to a wide and clearly marked exit.

On the other side of the second floor, a door in a corner of the armoury is now left ajar so that visitors can reach the main exit staircase in an emergency. Wardens in the Tower have been given instructions about the use of another unmarked staircase in the event of fire. "We have been carrying out regular evacuations during opening hours and have cleared the building in three minutes," Stephen Bond of the Historic Royal Palaces Agency, which runs the tower, said. "The building is so strong and its wooden beams so thick that any fire would need much longer than that to take hold."

The next stage is to install a fire detection and alarm system, which will be done when the building is refurbished.

"We have not rushed to install something which might quickly become out of date," Mr Bond said. "To avoid unnecessary interference to the building we want to install one system that will not only detect fire and raise the alarm but also detect intruders and monitor air humidity and quality."

The Tower authorities were initially reluctant to accept the safety risks identified by *The Times* but Government officials pointed them out to Sir Alan Bailey, who had been commissioned to review fire safety in palaces after the blaze at Windsor Castle that caused up to £40 million damage. He singled out the White Tower for criticism.

□ A motorised model of Tower Bridge made by Sir John Bartlett, whose great grandfather helped to build the real thing, will tour the country during its centenary year to raise money for charity.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Armed boy threatens pensioners

A boy believed to be as young as 12 threatened an elderly couple with a gun and demanded money.

The boy, who had a black handgun with a 9in barrel, approached Herbert Clough, 72, and his wife Hilda, 68, outside a club in Grimsby. He ran off with two older boys after the couple refused to give him money.

Det Chief Insp Doug McCully said: "The gun was similar to an air pistol, but it would have looked very frightening."

Disabled attack

Muggers tipped a disabled man out of his wheelchair and searched him as he lay on the ground. The man, in his twenties, was attacked at Tickton, Humberside. His wallet, containing a small amount of cash, was taken.

Murder charge

Jack Alders, 42, of Scarborough, was charged with the murder of Tommy Shaw, 30, who died on Christmas Eve, a week after suffering head injuries in a town centre disturbance.

Charity letdown

Only four homeless people took advantage of a free dinner on Christmas Day and Boxing Day which charity workers in Fareham, Hampshire, expected to attract 150.

Students killed

Two men from Hong Kong who were studying at Bristol University died when their car swerved across a road into a lorry as they returned from visiting a casino.

Owl on loose

A European eagle owl said to be extremely dangerous, with a 6ft wingspan and talons the size of a man's hand, escaped from an aviary at Gunthorpe, near Nottingham.

In the bag

A hundred aircraft sick bags, collected by Gillian Dean of Leeds, who hates flying, will be part of an exhibition of weird collections in Leeds.

Boy burned

A boy aged two suffered about 20 per cent burns when he tipped over a jug of boiling water at his home in Portslade, East Sussex.

Grounded

A charter flight for twitchers to see an ivory gull, an Arctic native, in Shetland was called off when the bird disappeared.

Print blaze

Sixty firemen tackled a blaze that badly damaged a print works in Faversham, Kent.

Black Christmas for one in five children

ONE in five children in London spent Christmas in conditions of severe deprivation, a survey has disclosed.

The report on poverty in the capital, by the Association of London Authorities, shows that 245,000 children there live in overcrowded accommodation — officially defined as having more than one person per room.

The survey said a fifth of children in London were growing up in families where income was at or below state benefit levels. Their parents had had to choose between buying food or presents.

Official statistics on homelessness show that 34,750 families in London had to spend Christmas in inadequate temporary accommodation.

Families living in temporary accommodation report various illnesses brought on by the squalor, including chronic bronchitis.

The study highlighted the problem of debt, severely affecting thousands of families in the capital. About 70,000 families had mortgages more than six months in arrears and an increasing number were being taken to court.

Leading article and Letters, page 13

Stone Age Ulstermen give up trade secrets

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ARCHAEOLOGISTS in Northern Ireland have discovered two timber houses and treasures dating back to the Stone Age. In one of the most significant finds in Ireland, an excavation team has found millstones, axe and arrow heads and delicate jewellery at a site near Ballygally, Co Antrim.

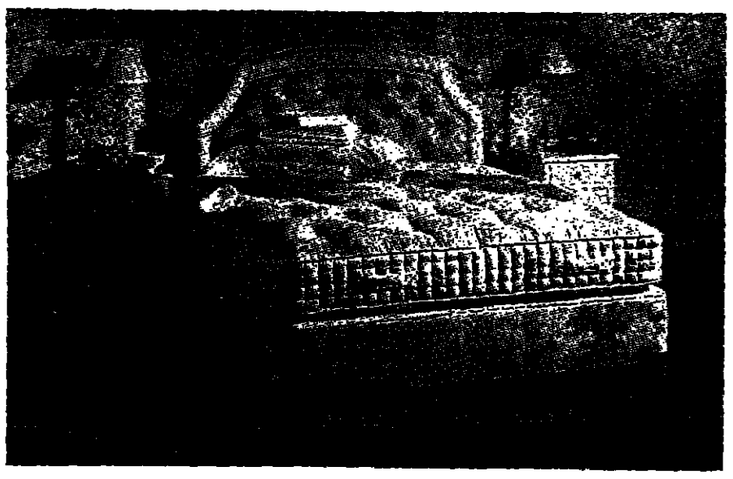
Derek Simpson, Professor of Archaeology at Queen's University, Belfast, who is leading the team, said yesterday that the axes, which date from about 3,800 BC, showed that Neolithic Ulstermen imported raw materials from as far as Cumbria and Cornwall.

"The settlement appears to have been a major distribution centre and they exchanged goods from the Lake District and Cornwall." Professor Simpson said. "Preliminary work indicates that a material known as pitchstone came from the Isle of Arran."

The archaeologists found the site by chance after a Queen's lecturer noticed that the topsoil had been removed. Malachy Conway, the excavation director, said: "Burial mounds are easy because they show up on the landscape. But this could have lain undetected for another 6,000 years." His team has only one more year to excavate the second timber house because a contractor plans to build houses near by.

The early signs of human life in Ulster date back to between 7000 and 6500 BC. But it was not until the fourth millennium BC that farmers arrived in Ulster from across the North Channel.

VI-SPRING



AN EXTRA £50 OFF EXISTING SALE PRICES OF THE WORLD'S FINEST BEDS

VI-SPRING ARE RENOWNED FOR originating the pocketed spring bed as far back as 1901. A spring system which remains unsurpassed in providing the best possible posture support. Vi-Spring beds are famed for their fine quality, comfort and durability.

This Winter, Vi-Spring are offering an extra £50 manufacturer's discount off their best selling pocket sprung beds: the Herald and the Regal. This is in addition to any existing retailers sale offers. Like all Vi-Spring beds their Regal and Herald beds are handmade by skilled craftsmen using the best natural materials. Both have a large number of pocketed springs, 1326 for the Herald and 1476 for the Regal and are available with soft, medium or firm levels of springing.

Go to a Vi-Spring Stockist and ask to try one of these superb beds and you will immediately feel the difference in the quality of support and comfort. And with this voucher you will receive an extra £50 off the Herald or Regal beds.

£50 VOUCHER

FOR YOUR FREE 80 PAGE COLOUR BROCHURE AND FULL PARTICIPATING STOCKIST LIST PLEASE CALL FREEPHONE 0800 952052

1. This Voucher is only exchangeable against a new Vi-Spring Herald or Regal bed (including Supreme models). 2. It is non-exchangeable for cash in whole or in part. 3. It is only valid at participating stockists. 4. Valid on new orders placed between 22th December '93 - 6th February '94. 5. Only one Voucher per bed. This manufacturer's offer is in addition to any retailer's sale or promotion.

USE THIS VOUCHER IN STORE TO CLAIM YOUR EXTRA £50 DISCOUNT

Industrialised fishing port threatens to wipe out turtle

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the world's most spectacular wildlife events, in which waves of sea turtles clamber ashore to lay millions of eggs on an Indian beach, is facing a catastrophe.

The Indian government is proposing to develop an industrial fishing port and processing factory a few miles from Gahirmatha beach in Orissa, where the annual egg laying occurs. Zoologists and conservationists fear that the scheme, involving up to 500 mechanised fishing vessels, will trigger the demise of one of the smallest species of sea turtle, the Olive Ridley.

Most of their other mass nesting grounds in the Pacific have been ruined by coastal developments leading to the disappearance of the species almost overnight.

More than half a million Olive Ridley females come ashore in a single week in March to lay their eggs on the Indian beach. Females lay eggs at the site where they were born and the beach is the biggest breeding ground for Ridleys, *Lepidochelys olivacea*, in the world.

Scientists claim that the port, factory, large prawn culture facility and a road through the beach's nearby mangrove swamps will interfere with the breeding season and lead to many being killed in fishing nets.

Professor Nicholas Mrosovsky, a British zoologist at the University of Toronto, said yesterday that research by the United States National Academy of Sciences had documented the devastating mortality of turtles from incidental catches by shrimpers.

The mangrove swamps, which will be cleared for the road, are also a valuable source of food for the turtles. While a sea turtle can lay 100 eggs in a season, up to 99 per cent can fail. "Marine turtles also take a long time to mature so the adults are very valuable to the next generation," Professor Mrosovsky said.

Dr Karen Eckert, director of the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network, a United Nations environment programme, said that the tragedy of the plan was that there were alternatives to the new port.

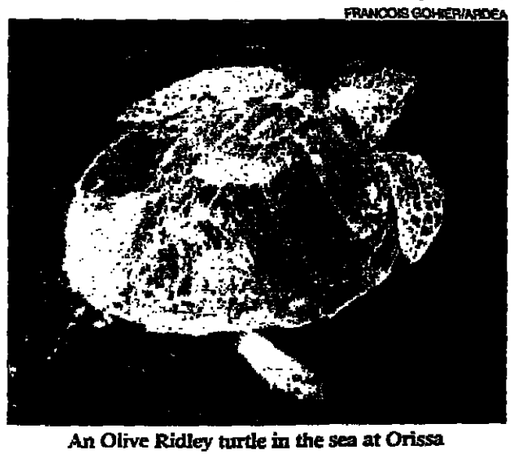
Hundreds of scientists have written to the Indian authorites urging them to consider expanding port facilties at other, less harmful, coastal sites near by.

Professor Mrosovsky said it might be possible to promote the turtles as a source of protein for local people by harvesting a proportion of the eggs. Many are destroyed by digging as new waves of females arrive on the beach to lay their eggs. "It may be controversial but it could work if properly managed," he said.

The Indian government has reacted to the conservation campaign by amending regulations to prevent trawlers operating within 20km of the beach. It is also considering banning fishing between December 15 and April 15, when the Ridleys nest.

But conservationists claim that such moves will be impossible to enforce. Romulus Whittaker, of the Madras Crocodile Bank, who is monitoring the scheme, said that in spite of efforts by the minister of environment and forests in New Delhi the scheme appeared near to approval: "The ministry in Orissa is defiant and determined that the project goes through — the turtles be damned."

FRANCOIS GOHIER/ARDEA



An Olive Ridley turtle in the sea at Orissa

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Adams shines

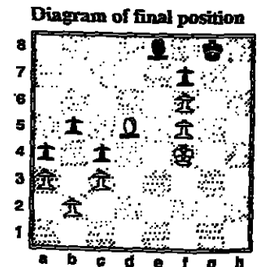
WITH time running out in which to determine the seven qualifiers in the PCA World Chess Championship at Groningen, The Netherlands, England's Michael Adams has moved into contention by winning a strategic masterpiece against the Bosnian grandmaster Ivan Sokolov.

White: Michael Adams
Black: Ivan Sokolov
Groningen, December 1993

Ruy Lopez

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	a6
4	Ba4	Nf6
5	0-0	Be7
6	Re1	b5
7	Bb3	0-0
8	c3	d6
9	c3	Na5
10	Bc2	c5
11	Nbd2	Nc6
12	Nf1	d5
13	exd5	Cxd5
14	Bb3	Qd6
15	Qe2	Nd7
16	Ng3	Cc7
17	Nf5	Bd8
18	Ng5	Nf6
19	Of3	Rb8
20	Ne4	Nxe4
21	dxe4	c4
22	Bc2	Ne7
23	Qg3	Nd5
24	exf5	Bf6
25	h4	Kh8
26	Bg5	Bb7
27	Rad1	Rbd8
28	Qe3	Rxd1
29	Rxd1	Qe7
30	Qb6	Bc8
31	Bxf6	Qxf6
32	Qxf8	gxf6
33	Rd6	Kg7
34	Be4	Re8
35	g4	h6
36	Kh2	Rg8
37	Kg3	a5
38	a3	Re8
39	f3	Re7
40	g5	hxg5
41	fxg5	Rd7
42	gxf6+	Kh6
43	Rxd7	Bxd7
44	f4	exd4+
45	Kxf4	a4
46	Bd5	Be8
47	Kg4	Kh7
48	Kg5	Kg8
49	Kf4	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



In the final position, Black cannot prevent the decisive penetration of his camp by the white king via e5.

With three rounds to go the leaders are Vishy Anand (India), with 6 points out of 8, and Michael Adams (England), Boris Gulko (USA) and Sergei Tiviakov (Russia), all with 5.5. Among those on 5 are the early leader Alexander Beliavsky (Ukraine), Gata Kamsky (USA) and Vladimir Kramnik (Russia).

Hastings

Britain's premier all-play-all tournament starts at Hastings today. Among the field are John Nunn, Matthew Sadler and the former Commonwealth champion Ian Rogers.

Television chess

The final round-up from *The Times* World Chess Championship is on Channel 4 on Sunday, January 2, when the station's presenters challenge Kasparov and Short.

Winning move, page 32

هكذا من الأصل

NEWS IN BRIEF

Armed boy threatens pensioners

Disabled attack

Murder charge

King Fahd unveils mild reforms amid rising economic storm

King Fahd: has chosen the all-male council's members

By Eve-Ann Prentice
Diplomatic Correspondent

THE Saudi royal family finally honours a 30-year-old pledge today when the kingdom's subjects are given a toehold on the country's political life.

■ The first meeting of an unelected council takes place in Saudi Arabia today. It marks the start of limited democracy, prompted by financial ills

Sixty men selected by King Fahd will gather in Riyadh for the first meeting of a new council of citizens, which will advise the all-powerful House of Saud on a wide range of policies. The inaugural gathering of the *Majlis al-Shura* (Consultative Council) comes as the first whiffs of economic hardship waft uncomfortably close on the desert air.

In 1981, Saudi Arabia enjoyed a budget surplus of $35 billion (£23 billion): last year it suffered a budget deficit of almost $20 billion. Oil prices have hit a five-year low and the legacy of the Gulf War has been a hefty bill for nearly $60 billion, much of it to meet the military's demands for more and better weapons.

The worsening economic climate, coupled with a growing threat from fundamentalists posing as human rights champions, have helped persuade the royal family to give its subjects their first say in the country's affairs. The secretive and conservative family, with 4,500 princes in the inner circle, has dominated political life, with the repressive *Mutaween* religious police keeping an iron grip on Muslim dissidents.

The House of Saud first offered to establish the council in 1962, but it was not until March last year that concrete steps to set it up were announced. King Fahd was nonetheless careful to emphasise at the time that free elections were not Islamic or "suitable to our country". The Saudi people had "unique qualities" which made them "different from the rest of the world", he said.

Although the powers of the council are strictly limited, the move is seen as highly significant in Riyadh and by Western governments, which have discreetly pressed for political reforms.

The King has personally chosen the all-male council's 60 members, who will serve four-year terms and meet at least every two weeks to discuss matters referred to it. The council's deliberations will be kept secret — documents must not be removed from the council building — and members cannot speak for more than ten minutes without special permission.

The council, however, could become an important platform for political debate. Western diplomats were surprised that so many professional men were selected as members; they had assumed it would be largely made up of tribal and religious leaders. Council members will also be full-time and salaried, and they are expected to debate a wide range of issues, including the budget, defence, foreign and social policies.

The council's establishment finally brings Saudi Arabia roughly into line with other Gulf states, such as Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman, which introduced political reforms after being criticised in the wake of the Gulf War. Kuwait, which like Saudi Arabia does not allow women to vote, has even named a female ambassador for the first time in its history. Nabila al-Molla was sworn in on Monday as ambassador to Zimbabwe.

In Riyadh the council's president, a former Justice Minister, has said the council will act as a partner to the government, although the King has the final say. The King has also named members of regional assemblies who will advise emirs on local matters. These assemblies, meeting every three months, are expected to gather after the council convenes on the national level.

The reforms may be partly an attempt by the royal family to deflect criticism of the growing economic problems. The King may be able to blame the advice from the new organisations for any hardships which lie ahead, instead of the royal family's legendary extravagance. Despite its massive oil reserves, Saudi Arabia is now ranked as a middle-income country by the World Bank, with a per capita gross national product that is less than half that of Singapore.

Israeli jets pound Hezbollah as hopes grow for PLO deal

From Ben Lynfield in Jerusalem

ISRAEL'S air force bombed pro-Iranian Hezbollah targets in Lebanon yesterday while its negotiators in Cairo sought to bridge negotiating gaps with the Palestine Liberation Organisation that have set back peace arrangements in the occupied territories.

Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, predicted slow but steady progress in the Cairo talks during a tour of the northern border town of Kiryat Shmona. "There are still difficulties in the negotiations with the PLO on all of the matters in dispute," he said, but added: "It will be possible to overcome them in stages."

Speaking a day after an Israeli soldier was wounded in southern Lebanon by a landmine, Mr Rabin warned Syria that it was not doing enough to stop Hezbollah attacks against Israeli troops. "I assume that the Syrians are able to trim [Hezbollah] activity, but I am convinced that they are not doing so ... I am sure that, through direct means and their overall influence on the Lebanese government, they could do much more to calm the situation here." The tough tone contrasted sharply with remarks by Mr Rabin in *The Wall Street Journal* recently that he expected President Clinton and President Assad of Syria to meet next month to discuss stalled Israeli-Syrian peace talks.

Two Hezbollah guerrillas were killed and three wounded during Israeli air strikes yesterday in the Toufah region of southern Lebanon, security sources in Lebanon said. The strikes appeared to be in retaliation for the wounding of the soldier. Guerrillas responded by firing rockets at Israeli positions and at the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army, the sources added.

A 16-year-old Jewish settler was charged yesterday with the murder of a Palestinian farmer shot dead while ploughing his field in the occupied West Bank, Israeli army radio said. It said police were considering charges against two adults over the killing on December 9.

In Cairo, Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, gave no hint of progress during a second day of talks with the PLO, but sought to dispel the impression that the two sides were at a dead end. Self-rule arrangements were supposed to be implemented two weeks ago, according to the September Israeli-PLO agreement, but have been held up due to differences over who will control border crossings, the size of Jericho and security arrangements for the Jewish settlers.

"We are talking like friends," Mr Peres said after taking a break from the talks to confer with President Mubarak. "As far as we are concerned, we shall respect their dignity and, as much as we can, their needs. You know that our main concern is and will remain the concern for the security of Israel."

Israeli officials yesterday said they hoped pressure by Mr Mubarak and Western countries would help persuade Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader, to agree to a compromise by which the border crossings would remain in Israeli hands while the size of Jericho would be increased.

Pact paves way for Pope's trip to Holy Land

From Sarah Cunningham in Rome

Israeli and Vatican delegations will meet today in Rome to put the finishing touches to an historic agreement in which the two states will pledge themselves to establishing full diplomatic relations.

Yossi Beilin, the Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister, will attend a meeting of the Israel-Vatican commission which is expected to approve the "fundamental agreement" it has been preparing for 17 months.

The signing of the accord should pave the way for the Pope to fulfil his wish to visit the Holy Land, taking up an open invitation by Israel's political and religious leaders. The last papal visit to Israel was by Pope Paul VI in 1964, just three days before the Six-Day War.

The agreement, in which both sides commit themselves to fighting anti-Semitism, racism and intolerance around the world, will be the fruit of years of painfully slow rapprochement. The process began in 1965 when a Second Vatican Council document repudiated collective Jewish guilt for the death of Jesus Christ. Until then anti-Semitism had been enshrined in the Catholic liturgy for Holy Week — the week leading up to Easter — in which a prayer was said for "the perfidious Jew", an allusion to the denial by Jews that Jesus was the Messiah.

The Holy See's pro-Palestinian sympathies have frequently drawn the anger of Israel, particularly when in 1982 and 1988 Pope John Paul received Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's leader, at the Vatican.

The Israeli government accused the Catholic Church then of hypocrisy — of meeting a terrorist when it had kept silent during the Holocaust. The Vatican's reply was that Pope John Paul, who had lived in Cracow and witnessed the Holocaust, had frequently denounced Nazi genocide.

There is a history of indifference by the Roman Catholic Church to Jewish suffering. From the Middle Ages, Jews in many European cities were forced to live in ghettos, originally an Italian word, and they faced prosecution when they strayed outside. From Rome's ghetto, no more than a mile from the Vatican, several hundred Jews were deported to their deaths in concentration camps during the Second World War. Dispelling some of those bitter memories, Pope John Paul in 1986 visited the Rome synagogue in the city's ghetto and called Jews "our respected elder brothers".

The departure last year of a group of Polish Carmelite nuns from a convent they had set up within the former concentration camp at Auschwitz on the other hand helped to ease relations with Israel and removed one of the stumbling blocks on the road to this week's agreement.

Children celebrating unseasonal midsummer snow in Canberra yesterday after building a snowman in blizzard conditions. The weather has made this the most miserable Christmas in memory. Page 1

Russian plotter elected

From Reuter in Moscow

ANATOLI Lukyanov, a former senior Soviet official on trial for his role in an abortive coup in 1991, has been elected to a temporary job in the new Russian parliament, Communist Party officials said yesterday.

Almost 20 representatives of parties elected Mr Lukyanov as chairman of a temporary commission co-ordinating work among political groups in the Federal Assembly. Viktor Ilyukhin, a Communist Party deputy, said. He said that Mr Lukyanov, 63, was elected "almost unanimously" against the other candidate, Gennadi Burbulis, a former aide of President Yeltsin.

Mr Lukyanov faces, with eight other former Soviet officials, a charge of high treason for his part in the attempted coup against Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet President.

A credentials commission will decide whether Mr Lukyanov, who was elected as Communist deputy in the recent elections, is eligible.

Anne McElvoy, page 12

Saddam's closest aides suspected in bomb plot

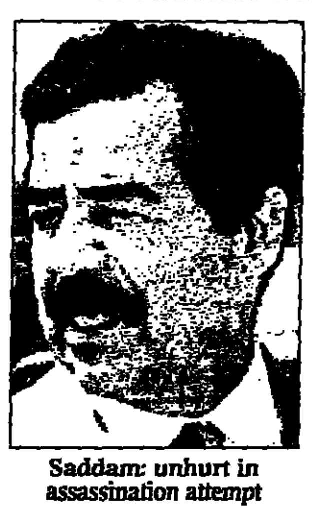
From Michael Theodoulou in Nicosia

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq escaped a well-planned assassination attempt in September that shocked his regime because suspicion has fallen on the Iraqi leader's inner circle, well-placed Iraqi sources said.

According to reports now emerging in Baghdad, Saddam, 56, was unhurt in the roadside bomb attack, but one of his bodyguards was wounded. The attack was made as Saddam was riding in a seven-car convoy to a hastily arranged meeting with senior aides, including Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister; Taha Yassin Ramadan, Vice-President; General Ali Hassan al-Majid, Defence Minister; and Rashad Amin, Saddam's chief bodyguard. Al-Majid is Saddam's cousin. Amin is the Iraqi leader's brother-in-law.

All these officials, long-serving members of Saddam's inner circle, have been questioned because few outside the meeting knew when and where it was taking place.

One Iraqi source said: "Saddam may not necessarily suspect them, although he is even suspicious of his mother, but it could be their aides or a leak in telecommunications." The meeting was apparently called by Saddam only hours before the attack.



Saddam: unhurt in assassination attempt

Reports of the incident suggest that explosives were hidden in a tractor abandoned on a road through the northeastern outskirts of Baghdad. Saddam is said to have been riding in a black armoured-plated Mercedes, fourth in the convoy. If confirmed, the assassination was attempted just nine weeks after an abortive military coup planned for July 17, which for the first time involved prominent figures within the ruling Sunni Muslim minority, disaffected by three years of trade sanctions.

At least 60 senior military officers, police and government officials were reported to have been detained and interrogated during the investigation led by Saddam's youngest son, Qusay, 28, who heads his father's personal intelligence apparatus. Unconfirmed reports said as many as 20 senior army officers had been executed since September 24.

Iraqi opposition groups, usually quick to make propaganda from reports of attempted assassinations or coups, said their groups were not involved. "The suspicion in Baghdad is that the plot was hatched within the regime, possibly with American support," the Iraqi source said. "It is puzzling the government because it thought the Americans would leave Saddam alone, especially now he is complying with some of the UN's demands."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Poll deals blow to Chirac's ambition

Paris: Jacques Chirac, the French neo-Gaullist leader, received another blow to his presidential hopes yesterday when a poll showed a majority of supporters of his RPR party would prefer Edouard Balladur, the Prime Minister, to get the nomination (Sean Mac Carthaigh writes).

The poll, for *Globe* magazine, gave only 30 per cent of RPR voters willing to back M Chirac, the Mayor of Paris, while 56 per cent preferred M Balladur.

Supporters of the RPR's coalition partner, the centre-right UDF, also backed M Balladur over their own party leader, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former President.

The magazine said 47 per cent French voters would have supported M Balladur for president if the election was held the day the opinion poll was taken.

Mosques bombed

Davao: Unknown attackers bombed two mosques days after a grenade attack on a Roman Catholic cathedral, sparking fears of renewed Christian-Muslim violence in the Philippines. Police said five men and a 13-year-old girl were injured by a homemade bomb thrown into a mosque in this mainly Christian city. Almost simultaneously, gunmen fired a grenade at another mosque. Nobody was injured. *(Reuter)*

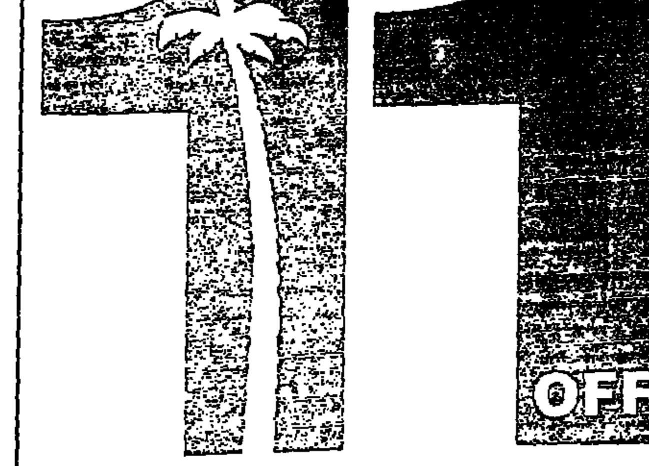
Militants admit bus attack

Cairo: A Muslim fundamentalist group has claimed responsibility for a bomb attack on a tourist bus that wounded 16 people, the *Al-Hayat* newspaper reported. The Islamic Group said the attack on Monday was to avenge the execution of Muslim militants. For the past two years, militants have been trying to overthrow Egypt's government and replace it with strict Islamic rule. More than 275 people have died. *(AP)*

Cash hope for nuclear victims

Washington: Hazel O'Leary, the American Energy Secretary, said that victims of radiation experiments in the United States during the 1940s and 1950s should be compensated. On Cable Network News she called on Congress to ascertain "with the American public what would be appropriate compensation". Ms O'Leary promised earlier this month to open classified files in line with a drive for more openness by her department.

BIGGEST DISCOUNTS EVER!



%

ON EVERY OVERSEAS HOLIDAY WE SELL.

Lunn Poly are now offering their biggest discounts ever but only for a limited period. Discounts are for every overseas Summer and Winter holiday and cruise that we sell. All we ask you to do is book between now and Monday 3rd January and take out our top quality holiday insurance at the same time.

You'd be crazy to book your holiday anywhere else. So hurry into your local Lunn Poly Holiday Shop now.

EXAMPLE DISCOUNTS PER PERSON

Brochure Price	Lunn Poly Discount	Lunn Poly Price
£720	£79	£641
£430	£47	£383
£240	£26	£214

Lunn Poly

Offer subject to availability.

ABTA 18057

Russia expert with media skills joins White House trouble-shooters

Clinton picks Oxford friend to salvage his foreign policies

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

BY APPOINTING Strobe Talbott, a former journalist and respected Russian scholar, as Deputy Secretary of State, President Clinton and Warren Christopher have taken a bold, although risky, step to counter persistent criticism of American foreign policy and the competence of those in charge of it.

Mr Talbott, 47, has never been elected to office, and he has less than one year's experience as a policy-maker. He was appointed by the President in February as a special ambassador to forge the Administration's policy towards Russia, a post that has been specially created to take account of Russia's importance. During his short period in office, the former *Time* magazine columnist, whose Yale thesis was on Russian poetry, has made his name as one of the most able members of the State Department's foreign policy team: he is credited with shaping one of the few areas of foreign policy which have escaped persistent criticism and which continue to enjoy bipartisan support. After the recent elections in Russia, which resulted in the strong gains by ultra-nationalists in parliament, Mr Talbott's expertise is bound to be even more in demand. Mr Talbott also counts among the best of "the friends of Bill".

In 1969 the two men shared a room as Rhodes scholars in Oxford. After Oxford their professional ways departed. Mr Talbott joined *Time* as an East European correspondent in 1971 and wrote a number of books on the Soviet Union and, most notably, in the early 1970s a translation of Nikita Khrushchev's memoirs. He also wrote and co-authored several books about the Reagan Administration's foreign policy.

At *Time* he later covered the State Department and the White House, and in 1984 he became *Time* bureau chief in Washington. As editor-at-large he wrote about foreign affairs until his appointment in February to the post of "ambassador-at-large" in the State Department. In all those years Mr Clinton and Mr Talbott remained close friends. As Governor of Arkansas, Mr Clinton stayed at Mr Talbott's home when visiting Washington.

Mr Talbott is considered an excellent communicator, much liked and respected by his fellow journalists in contrast to Mr Christopher, a courteous man but a poor performer at news conferences and congressional hearings, who has received a rough ride from the media. At this year's Tokyo Group of Seven summit, Mr Talbott, along with David Gergen, the President's counsellor, succeeded in creating the exaggerated impression of a "summit triumph" for Mr Clinton.

Mr Talbott's appointment is part of a wider shake-up in the State and Defence Departments and after strong criticism over the Administration's handling of the conflicts in Bosnia, Somalia and Haiti. The most prominent victim of the purge was Les Aspin, who had suffered criticisms of his competence as Defence Secretary.

Mr Talbott will replace Clifton Wharton, who was the highest-ranking black official in the history of the State Department until he was asked to resign last month by Mr Christopher. The Secretary of State was apparently unhappy about his deputy's performance, although it is generally considered that Mr Wharton is not to blame for any of the Administration's foreign policy fiascos. Mr Talbott will have a more active role in policy-making, and will retain his responsibilities for Russia.

Mr Talbott's appointment has inevitably given rise to speculation, whether he is now the heir apparent to Mr Christopher, 68. After the recent shake-up at the Pentagon, Mr Christopher is unlikely to retire at this stage, but he might do so later during this Administration, by which time Mr Talbott could have accumulated enough experience to be a front-runner for the second most prestigious job in American politics.

☐ **Spy affair:** Jonathan Pollard, an American serving a life sentence after being found guilty of spying for Israel, has tried to slip classified information into his letters from prison, according to a confidential memorandum written by Mr Aspin to President Clinton.

The memo, which was leaked to *The New York Times*, concludes with a recommendation that Pollard should not be given early parole, as has been requested by the Israeli government.

Policy-maker at helm, page 1

Mr Talbott, a former *Time* writer, who has been named Mr Clinton's Deputy Secretary of State

President Clinton waving as he set off to hunt duck in Maryland earlier this week

Gun-toting President reloads for battles ahead

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

■ **President Clinton bagged a duck on a politically incorrect hunt, but he will face tougher opponents on Capitol Hill in a year filled with policy landmines**

IT MAY have been sheer coincidence, or a reflection of a more aggressive state of mind, when President Clinton this week spent $41 (£28) on a gun licence, armed himself with a 12-gauge Winchester, and changed into camouflage gear to shoot ducks on the eastern shore of Maryland.

The politically incorrect hunt, to which a single duck fell victim, is in some respects a fitting way for Mr Clinton to end a year of controversy, which culminated with allegations of sexual adventures and his links to a Arkansas financial scandal. The latest embarrassment is a report in *The Washington Post* yesterday that Mr Clinton took federal tax write-offs of as much as $15 for donating his long-johns to charity while Governor of Arkansas in the 1980s. Guidelines by the Salvation Army and Goodwill Industries, which accept donations of second-hand clothes, suggest Mr Clinton consistently valued his donations at significantly above their market value, *The Post* said. Mr Clinton's proven ability to survive scandals might not save him from the difficulties to come in the new year and none more so than his proposed reforms of America's health care industry.

After the killing of the duck, Mr Clinton left for a brief holiday in Arkansas, where he is preparing for next year's work. The budget, which is due in February, will include ferocious defence cuts to meet Mr Clinton's deficit reduction target. The debate on health care will begin on January 25 when the President delivers his State of the Union address, at the start of a new session of Congress. Welfare reform and a comprehensive crime Bill, which may include further changes in gun control laws, will also come up next year. Opposition to many of these proposed policies is building up on Capitol Hill, ahead of next November's elections of the House of Representatives and one-third of the Senate, where vulnerable Democratic seats are at risk and where enthusiasm is receding for "change", a word that has lost much of its magic. To push through his agenda, Mr Clinton will need at least as much resolve and political acumen as he displayed in the fight to secure the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada, and the Brady gun control Bill this autumn.

There are strong doubts about his health care reform proposals. Middle-class Americans might suffer a lowering in the level of their health care provisions or higher insurance premiums, or both. The Republicans have united in strong opposition to the plan, drawing up counter-proposals which would not include the controversial employer mandate, under which the main share of the finance for health reform will be drawn from the corporate sector. The plan is also being challenged on the left. Jim McDermott, a Democratic congressman with the support of 93 colleagues, has proposed the single-payer system, which would move health care a step closer to Britain's National Health Service.

Mr Clinton's half-brother Roger, a small-time pop singer and actor whose antics frequently embarrass the White House, has said he intends to marry his reportedly pregnant girlfriend. Arriving with the President on board Air Force One for a holiday in Arkansas, the First Brother told reporters: "I'm getting married." *Time* magazine said this week that Molly Martin, 25, who lives with 37-year-old Mr Clinton in Redondo Beach, California, was due to bear their child in the spring, and that the President had therefore denied them a White House wedding. Mr Clinton earns a living warming up soap opera audiences with his band, Politics.

Colony's investors shrug off threat by Chinese

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE Hang Seng index leapt yesterday after Peking's declaration that, on the last day of British rule, Hong Kong's system of government will be expunged and a new administration installed.

Hong Kong's stock market index, which used to fall steeply at the slightest hint of political misfortune, rose 530.38 points to close at 11,570.22, the steepest one-day rise. Brokers were saying that now Sino-British relations had hit bottom, the market knew the worst. "The uncertainty is gone," a broker said.

But at Government House the Hang Seng rise was seen as a sign that Hong Kong believed the next three years would be stable, although an official spokesman called the Chinese threat destabilising.

Chris Patten, the Governor, is said to believe that if China dissolves the three tiers of urban councils, district boards and the Legislative Council after June 30, 1997 — which he doubts — then all Hong Kong will see how much better off it was under the British.

As for the Chinese warning that many senior officials, too, would not be permitted to ride "the through train" which enters Chinese administration on July 1, 1997, Mr Patten was in confident mood this week. He told a local newspaper that certain officials would be useful to the new rulers, especially Michael Sze, his Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, who has been criticised by Peking.

This is regarded as colonial cheek by the Communist-supporting press here. The newspaper *Wen Wei Po*, for example, accused Britain of attempting to maintain its rule after 1997 and said that no sovereign state would tolerate the extension of a colonial constitution; the new government would be a product of Chinese decisions and laws.

One Peking official here said all Hong Kong's laws would have to be vetted by committees consisting largely of Hong Kong citizens declared "loyal" by Peking, to see if they conformed with China's Basic Law for Hong Kong.

Allen Lee, a Legislative Council member and leader of the somewhat pro-Peking Liberal Party, said yesterday that the Governor had been wrong to say that Peking would never abolish the Hong Kong government, and urged Mr Patten to find an accommodation with China. But Martin Lee QC, also a council member and leader of the United Democrats, the largest directly elected party, charged the Chinese with violating their promises to keep Hong Kong largely independent.

In Peking yesterday, Zhu Muzhi, president of the newly formed China Society for the Study of Human Rights, accused America of using human rights to pursue "power politics" and bully Peking. "China has become a major target of attack from Western countries on the issue of human rights. This is because some countries always want to use human rights to realise their own objectives."

☐ For the tenth time since April, Chinese hijackers forced a passenger aircraft to fly to Taiwan. The hijackers, a couple and their 11-year-old child, displayed a fake bomb to force the aircraft, carrying 50 people, to fly from Ganzhou in south China to Taipei.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rao plans reshuffle over cash scandal

Delhi: P. V. Narasimha Rao, India's Prime Minister, will reshuffle his cabinet next month to drop two ministers tainted by an all-party report on the country's biggest financial scandal, political sources said yesterday.

Sources in the ruling Congress Party said it appeared very unlikely that Mr Rao would sack Manmohan Singh, the Finance Minister and architect of India's radical market-oriented reforms, who offered his resignation over the report. Bankers and brokers have been accused of colluding to syphon money illegally out of the inter-bank securities market to fuel a stock market boom.

Congress MPs, businessmen and newspapers have urged Mr Rao to reject Mr Singh's resignation. The sources said that, unless Mr Singh insisted on going, it was almost certain he would present the February budget, expected to hasten the reforms. *(Reuter)*

Leading article, page 13

Pit strike ends

Sofia: Some 20,000 Bulgarian miners ended a 26-day strike after the government promised to devise a long-term policy that would guarantee jobs for those laid off by mine closures, trade union officials said. A demand for back pay was also met. *(Reuter)*

Mafia raid

Palermo: Ten people, including three policemen, were held in Sicily in a dawn raid by police investigating links between the Mafia and secret Masonic lodges. Vincenzo Inzerillo, a Christian Democratic senator, was told he was under investigation. *(Reuter)*

Mao protests

Calcutta: A group of Indian Communists ransacked a British Airways office to protest against a BBC documentary which dealt with the sex life of Mao Tse-tung. Earlier they had protested outside British diplomatic offices. *(AP)*

Polar search

Christchurch: Rescuers near the South Pole were trying to reach a member of a Norwegian expedition who fell down a crevasse. The man had been there for more than 40 hours and it was not known whether he was still alive. *(AP)*

Troop rampage

Maputo: Mozambican soldiers looted shops and clashed with police in the northern town of Cuamba, *Noticias* reported. It said the protest was sparked by claims that October's pay cheques had still not been received. *(Reuter)*

Suspect dies

Reykjavik: Edwald Hinriksson, an alleged Nazi war criminal suspected of having led a vigilante squad that persecuted Jews in Estonia during the Second World War, has died aged 82. He had lived in Iceland since 1946. *(Reuter)*

Notes in tune

Medford: Bank notes worth $140,000 (£95,000) were found in a piano left by the late barber of this Wisconsin town when the instrument's new owner sent it for tuning. The money, dating from the 1930s, will go to the estate of the dead man. *(Reuter)*

Theme park dream fades as Disney's magic lamp loses its power

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES AND PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

THE entertainment empire that brought you Micky Mouse and Donald Duck and EuroDisney may be pulling in its horns, with far-reaching consequences for the southern Californian economy. Speculation has grown since the resignation of a key project director last week that Disney may be about to cancel a $3 billion (£2 billion) theme park planned for the southern Los Angeles suburb of Anaheim.

Suffering severe rejection at Walt Disney's European theme park outside Paris, which is under the threat of closure, the Disney name is no longer being embraced by Americans from coast to coast. Plans for an expansion to double the size of Disneyland are at least three months behind schedule and locals in the historic rural area of Prince William County in Virginia are fighting proposals for a thrill-ride park based on an American history theme. Both Anaheim and Prince William County are balking at almost $1 billion worth of concessions which Disney is demanding before the parks are built.

In California, Disney wants local taxpayers to stump up $750 million, a third of which would pay for two of the world's biggest car parks capable of holding 30,000 vehicles which will be used largely by Disney tourists. Both Disney and a spokesman for Anaheim city council say talks continue, but Disney says it had expected agreement by now, sees no resolution to the talks until the spring, and says the project has been significantly delayed.

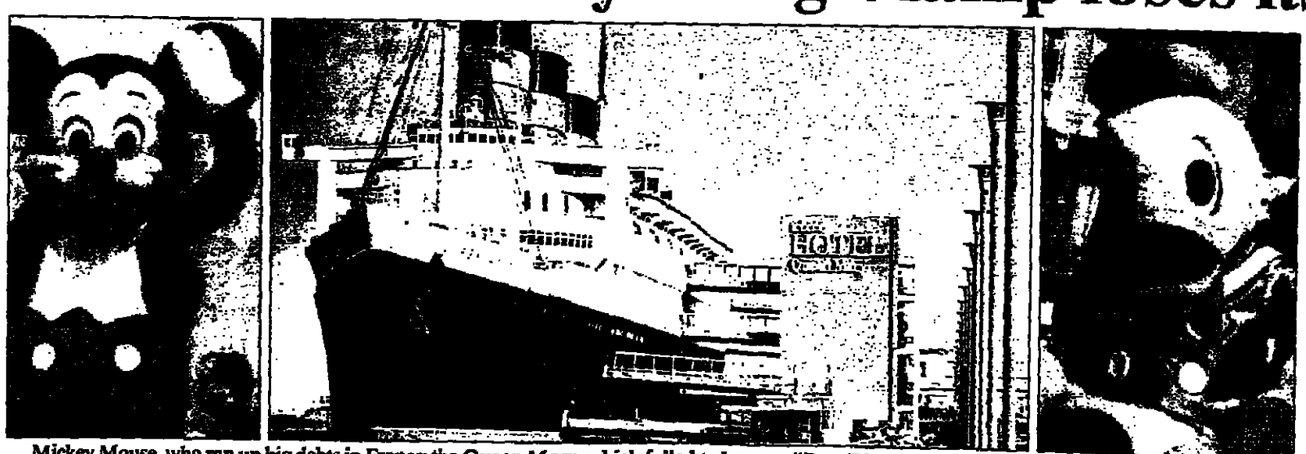
Anaheim has been offering Disney local concessions since it started in 1955. When the first Disneyland was proposed it was so enthusiastically embraced that the local council blocked off and diverted the main road to make way for the theme park. At that time there were 2,000 residents and 100 hotel rooms. Today the population is 285,000 with 14,000 hotel rooms and ten million visitors a year. But that number of tourists holds no excitement in Virginia, where Disney wants local residents to put up between $60 million and $100 million for its 3,000-acre park just outside Manassas, site of the Bull Run battles, among the most significant of the American Civil War. The local tax bill could top $2 billion if new roads are added in.

But local civic groups are confident their sustained opposition will mean the park is never built, despite Disney assurances that the park would yield $1.86 billion in local revenue over the next 30 years. Christopher Miller, a lawyer and member of the Piedmont Environmental Council fighting the project, said: "That's pixie dust. They've inflated the dollars out 30 years. We estimate that in 1993 dollars the local benefits would be no more than $900 million over that time."

Michael Eisner, Walt Disney chairman and chief executive and among the highest paid directors in America, said that, if he did not get the concessions, the park would not be built. Mr Miller responded: "That runs contrary to their PR line. We think there should be careful analysis of Disney's plans, because there is pretty firm evidence from Europe that they have made mistakes in the past." If the park is stillborn, the spectacularly low attendances at EuroDisney will have been a significant factor. Disney vastly overrated Europe's appetite for its larger-than-life fantasies and saturation happiness. It lost $514.7 million at EuroDisney last year. It was also hit by falling revenues at the Epcot Centre in Florida, on which the Anaheim project is based. Disney has an unhappy record in the Los Angeles area of launching projects — and raising hopes of badly needed investment — only to scrap them at the last moment. A $611 million studio and shopping complex planned for Burbank, north of Hollywood, was aborted in 1988, and a $2 billion plan to convert the *Queen Mary* into "Port Disney" came to grief two years later.

"They're going to have to stick with a project soon," says Evan Anderson Braude, a councillor of Long Beach, where the *Queen Mary* is berthed. "Otherwise they are going to get a terrible reputation for failed projects."

Other areas of Disney business tend to suggest otherwise. While the *Aladdin* movie and the *Jungle Book* video take Britain by storm, the *Aladdin* video has sold 21 million copies in North America since its release on October 1, making it the best-selling video of all time. It is made, marketed and distributed by Disney.



Mickey Mouse, who ran up big debts in France; the *Queen Mary*, which failed to become "Port Disney"; and the Disney success, Donald Duck

هكذا من الأصل

Battered Sarajevo lights its candles of hope for peace

*As the first freedom convoy leaves the capital under siege, **Tom Rhodes** looks at the daily life endured by those not lucky enough to escape but who are determined to stay and fight for peace*

FOR the second year, Christmas has passed in Sarajevo with barely a halt to the interminable shelling, machine-gun and sniper fire which are as much a part of the daily diet as the meagre rations available on the streets of the besieged Bosnian capital. More than 50,000 have been killed or wounded since April 1992, and there is little sign that the killing will cease.

Yesterday hundreds of desperate Sarajevans gathered in the snow hoping to join the latest convoy organised by local authorities to evacuate Muslims, Croats and Serbs from the charred remains of their city.

Previous attempts have often proved as futile as the diplomatic negotiations surrounding the Bosnian conflict, but the children and the elderly, the wounded and those others fortunate enough to be included seemed finally last night to be on the verge of freedom. Few will be sorry to leave a place that can be scarcely called a city any more.

After almost two years under siege, Sarajevo has become the final, tangible symbol of the futility of the conflict. On average, more than 20 people are killed each week while hundreds are injured. Electricity is scarce, water supply rare and, according to officials from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, most Sarajevans receive less than half of the food supplement they need to survive.

Yet behind the wrecked buildings, the misery of the hospitals and the overflowing cemeteries, there is still a powerful will to remain alive. Plays and musical evenings are still staged regularly, the television station still operates — despite having lost 30 of its staff this year — and *Oslobodjene* [Liberation], the daily newspaper, is still printed against all odds.

On New Year's Eve, Bernard Kouchner, the French humanitarian aid organiser and former minister, will host an evening of music and singing by the depleted Sarajevo Orchestra and the city's choir. Organisation for the event will, in itself, be a triumph of planning over adversity. Entitled "A Candle of Hope", the musical evening will run in tandem with thousands of children throughout Europe placing candles on their window ledges as a simple act of solidarity with the children of Sarajevo. "It's a very simple gesture, but it represents a flame being lit against intolerance, a flame so that all religions, races and people can live together," Dr Kouchner said last night.

"The concert is coming from the opposite direction, to us, from the people of Sarajevo. They're the ones organising everything, it's their own orchestra, their own choir, singing on the first hour of the first day for peace and tolerance." Including works by Mozart, Fauré, Schubert and local composers, the evening will be graced by only one foreign artiste: Barbara Hendricks, the American singer.

The concert, like Susan Sontag's production of *Waiting for Godot* before it, will certainly provide a focus for world attention but it can in no way be seen as anything more than a gesture. So fatigued has the world become by the horrors of even Sarajevo, that the daily statistics of death and destruction scarcely warrant a mention for many international broadcasters and publications.

Already the signals in the West are growing stronger for a withdrawal of United Nations protection forces. Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said this week the warring factions would lose the incentive to reach a peace agreement if they believed that UN forces were to stay indefinitely.

For Sarajevo and the other so-called protected enclaves, the possibly imminent departure of UN forces would be the worst possible conclusion. Many Bosnians in Sarajevo believe that the Bosnian Serbs, with their greater artillery and manpower, could overwhelm their city with little difficulty.

The only reason this has not happened, they say, is that Sarajevo remains the most important bargaining counter at the conference tables of Geneva and Brussels. In addition, the West sees the city's status as capital and its multi-cultural tradition as a vital key to ending the war — the only serious solution to relieve the continual suffering. If Europeans leave Sarajevo to its fate, its citizens say, then they are washing their hands of Bosnia as a whole.

Convoy on the move, page 1

A mother and daughter waving from one of eight buses evacuating about 1,200 Muslim, Croat and Serb civilians from Sarajevo yesterday

Muslim leader reconciled to divided Bosnia

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

BOSNIA'S Prime Minister drew deeply on his cigarette, sighed and said he was reconciled to the break up of his country. Haris Silajdzic feels Bosnia has been betrayed by the West, and he worries about talk of peacekeepers pulling out if no deal is reached soon.

"The most painful thing for me is seeing the fathers of human rights turning away from what is clearly genocide," he said. "By pulling the thread holding Bosnia together, they are pulling apart civilisation in Europe."

Although the United Nations General Assembly has passed a resolution in favour of lifting the arms embargo against the Muslim-led Bosnian government, Mr Silajdzic knows it is an empty gesture. There is no chance that the Security Council will adopt the measure because Britain and France, which have veto powers, vehemently oppose lifting the weapons ban.

Silajdzic: laments triumph of force

"Where is the principle of deterrence which has kept the peace for 50 years?" he asked. "They know the Serbs can be stopped only by force."

Mr Silajdzic, 48, who was promoted from Foreign Minister last month, says he is a sadder but wiser man after 20 months of war. "As a realist I am reconciled to the idea of ethnic division, but inside I know that what is going to come is not nice.

"In 1939 they said they didn't know what was happening to the Jews. Now they can't say that about Bosnia. Cosmopolitan Europe is an illusion — Europe is really made up of tribes. Small groups are arming."

Mr Silajdzic has little respect for the niceties of diplomacy. An aide interrupted him to say that President Izetbegovic was waiting to see him. "You deal with it. I'll be out later," he said. "I don't think I am the right man for this job. I am popular, not because I am Prime Minister, but because my attitude is not too diplomatic. I have seen too much bestiality, so I dropped all the niceties. I was talking recently to some women who were pregnant because they had been raped. Not young women, old women. It really affected me.

"The Serbs and Croats have no free press. In Sarajevo we have a free press, yet we are seen as fundamentalists and they are seen as democrats.

"The politicians in Europe today just want to gain power for its own sake. They have no agenda. Are you a superman if you have another million pounds? Superman to me is someone who helps others to live in peace."

During the Geneva peace talks in the summer, Mr Silajdzic often appeared to be angry with Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, the European Union and UN negotiators. Now his attitude seems to have softened. "I don't want to be unfair to these two. The Arab-Israeli talks are not nearly as complicated as this. This involves three parties and they have a very tough job."

Mr Silajdzic hopes the next generation of European leaders will have "more ideals. I don't think the young will be happy to be fed Coca-Cola and jeans forever."

Does he ever have time to relax? "No. My favourite season is the autumn and this year I had only one afternoon to look at the trees and see them turning gold, and to think. My life has become slogans and sound-bites."

☐ Zagreb: The UN said yesterday it was probing allegations that the Muslim-led Bosnian government army killed captured Croat soldiers and may also have have murdered Croat villagers.

A United Nations Protection Force spokesman said it was also looking into Croat militia reports that Bosnian forces poisoned a reservoir and set fire to a bunker with Croat soldiers in it near Gornji Vakuf. *(Reuter)*

WINTER SALE.
(Half Price Ladies Fashions.)

Double Breasted Blazer in 100% Pure New Wool. Sizes 10 to 16. Available in Black, Navy, Burgundy, Bottle Green and Red. Our Normal Price £79.99. **Now £39.99.** Save £40.

Brandtex Stretch Corduroy Trousers. Available in assorted colours. Our Normal Price £29.99. **Now £14.99.** Save £15.

HOUSE OF FRASER STORES

BARKERS · ARMY & NAVY · DAVID EVANS · DICKINS & JONES · FRASERS
DH EVANS · HOWELLS · JOLLYS · CAVENDISH HOUSE · HAMMONDS · BINNS · DINGLES
KENDALS · ARNOTTS · RACKHAMS · SCHOFIELDS · HOUSE OF FRASER

*All items subject to availability

KOBAL COLLECTION

The kind of film guaranteed to have women reaching for the Kleenex, to the bafflement of husbands: Olivia de Havilland, acting her way to an Oscar for best actress, and John Lund, in the sentimental 1946 drama, *To Each His Own*

Sit back, we still have the stars

Husbands with amnesia, tragic ballerinas who go blind, psychiatrists oozing sympathy — **Libby Purves** has been indulging her secret addiction, the Woman's Movie

I know how this Christmas holiday will end. It will end with Miriam Hopkins and Bette Davis drinking champagne together, looking back over their ruined yet brilliant lives, and drinking a toast to "Auld Acquaintance". While the music swells to an emotional climax, I slump on the sofa in a paroxysm of empathy, and my husband stumps off to put the bins out. For the one unchanging certainty about festive television is that Mr Blobbies may come and go, but the ritual of the maudlin, overdressed, addictive Woman's Movie goes on forever.

I did a brief personal survey of the listings: over these 14 gorged days there are no fewer than 42 films — three a day — in this particular category: none of them less than 30 years old, and many dating back to the 1930s. They are neither thriller *nor* comedy, not cops and robbers or classics or family adventures: they are glorious schlock. Sentiment with a twist: films about strong women suffering in tailored jackets and hats with veils down the front: films about amnesia, bitter-sweet revenges, unhealthy obsessions, mésalliances, deceptions, and tragic ballerinas who go blind. Or have babies in secret, out of town, by dead war heroes and hide their heartache when another woman brings them up. They blur together, these films, but you know you have one when you see a title like *To Each His Own*, *Dark Victory*, or *Tender Comrade*. You sigh, and sit back, and watch a Joan Crawford or Miriam Hopkins or perhaps twin Bette Davises (one good, one bad).

A few days ago, the same channel actually presented two different films, one 1935 and one 1936, with plots about innocent girls (Janet Gaynor, Bette Davis) who end up married by accident to men they don't know. And even though by some miscalculation there is no showing of (sniff!) *Mr Skeffington*, it will be possible before Epiphany to take in a gratifying number of swelling scores, titles superimposed on crumpled satin, and brooding sidelong glances from hooded black-and-white eyes under veiled hats.

If you share this secret female vice, you will have had the *Now, Voyager* experience. This 1942 gem is worth noting as probably the ultimate film of the genre. Bette Davis is a repressed spinster called Charlotte, dominated by her mother, who meets a sympathetic psychiatrist (Claude Rains) and gets cured and made glamorous; whereon she falls in love with Paul Henreid, only he is married with a problem daughter (sniff, sniff) — and at the psychiatrist's clinic she falls in with the daughter, cures her in turn, and arrives at a heartbreaking arrangement whereby she looks after the child but may never be the father's lover. He demurs: at which point she speaks the closing line, and all of us join in from our sofas. "Don't ask for the moon — we have the stars". Pan to stars. This plot, combined with Paul Henreid's ability to light two cigarettes at once, is almost irresistible. It also causes our menfolk to leave the room in disgust. So spare a thought for the husband of Jeanine Basinger, Corwin-Fuller Professor of Film Studies at the Wesleyan University of America. She has just produced a masterwork, *A Woman's View: How Hollywood Spoke to Women, 1930-1960*, during the researches for which her husband, she assures me, "had to leave the room for *five years*". Her enthusiasm for the genre is genuine: born in 1936, she grew up with these films.

"When I was a child", she says, "powers of observation were needed because no one told you anything. We were forced back upon spying on adults by pretending to play paper dolls while secretly watching and listening. Fortunately our research was aided by the local movie house."

Here, chewing popcorn in the plush darkness, she learnt what it was to be a female person. It was confusing but stimulating.

"Husbands were the most important thing in the world, but men were not to be trusted because they were always dying unexpectedly, getting fired and running off with chorus girls. Marriage was an economic disaster in which women had to start taking in washing. Women were supposed to know how to tempt men, but they were also supposed to be innocent and pure. They needed to be glamorous but should create stunning outfits out of the draperies and produce a cookie jar crammed with a million dollars' worth of egg money to hand over to their man when his automobile factory went broke. Women needed protection from spiders, but could survive Indian attacks and cholera."

She admits that it never made much sense, but is free of feminist complaint. "Even as children we entered into the joyful conspiracy of movie-going," she says. "You were a fool to believe any of it, but you were a fool if you didn't. It didn't matter, because movies were really only about one thing: a kind of yearning."

Her analysis — exhaustively academic in the American style — lapses with refreshing frequency into hilarity and common sense. She rejects feminist objections about the fact that love and marriage are seen as woman's best destiny. "If you're in a mass market, you plug into a mass consciousness. Women were looking for ways out of their narrow lives, without giving up on the idea of love; so the men go to war, or get amnesia — very useful, amnesia — and you see women with strength and courage and imagination and resourcefulness. The result is you get 85 minutes of a woman running the world and saving the day, in terrific clothes — so what if you end on five minutes of her running back to her man? It was the 85 minutes that were so unconsciously liberating. All these powerful, neurotic, strong presences — Bette Davis, Joan Crawford, Vivien Leigh — were expressing women's frustrations at being confined.

"These women were strong. They got into those furs, those skirts that do up at the side, there was a kind of lunacy about their overdressed success, the way they said 'I'm gonna put on a big hat and I'm gonna get in there and *edit* that newspaper!' Even if they do make the cookies in the end.".

One of her favourite themes is that of the Bad Girl. Despite the overtly pious message, the bad girls of the movies had a powerful appeal. "Scarlett is more interesting than Melanie. Sometimes the good girl gets to cope with life by lowering her neckline, but more often you get the twins films, with the same actress playing a good and a bad version of the same woman." At this point, the interview collapses as the two of us, across a transatlantic telephone line, begin excitedly telling one another the epically mad plot of *A Stolen Life*.

"The good one gets the handsome lighthouse-keeper — but the twin impersonates her and the man says 'Gee, you're different tonight, before you were like a cake without the frosting, and a man kinda likes the frosting' — and she marries him, the bad one — then she drowns and the good one is left clinging to the wedding ring, and pretends to be her.

"See?" says Ms Basinger. "It's tremendously interesting. The female self behaving badly and having sex and good clothes and bizarre hats — and yet it all comes right in the end. You have your cake, you eat it. That's the movies."

That may also be why the men flee the room. Or it could be that men in these films are so hopeless it depresses them. Their inadequacy is defined by the line in *The Letter*, when the lawyer looks at the unfaithful, murderous wife and says: "Strange, how a man can live with a woman for ten years and not know the first thing about her."

As Ms Basinger astringently points out in the book, "Men in the movies, as in life, seem not to know what women want. With the notable exception of the Three Stooges when they cry out to their fat girlfriends 'Let's go places and eat things!'." The best men are the platonic helpers: ghosts, old family doctors, wise old half-dead uncles with money to leave.

So how, I crossly asked the Corwin-Fuller Professor of Film Studies, have we deserved today's passive, bimboesque or psychopathic heroines?

"Believe me", replies Ms Basinger mournfully, "I don't know. But research shows that the most typical American filmgoer is a teenage boy. Perhaps also, once we got the Pill, women's lives got closer to men's. You open my refrigerator today and you are maybe looking at cobwebs, but hey, we survive, we send out for a pizza. And the social structures got easier, you don't get thrown out in the snow with your baby now. So women maybe got to think they could forget about the imperatives of their bodies and their emotions and all that."

Even so, there is something in us still drawn, powerfully, to the old schlock. "I've got a grown daughter, and we sit weeping together over these old films — we're sick of fey, little mood pieces, we want a good, solid story. Remember *The Old Maid*, where she passes off her illegitimate child as her friend's . . ."

And off we go again.

● A Woman's View: How Hollywood Spoke to Women 1930-60, *by Jeanine Basinger, will be published by Chatto & Windus on January 17 (£14.99).*

STAY AT THE HYDE PARK HOTEL THIS JANUARY...

AND ADD A TOUCH OF CLASS TO THE SALES

When dukes and debutantes danced 'til dawn... When bathrooms were marble palaces... When beds were the coolest expanses of lavender fragrant linen... When every guest was treated like a king... It was always at the Hyde Park Hotel.

THE AGE OF ELEGANCE LIVES ON...

After braving the bustle of the Knightsbridge sales, indulge in the hospitality of a more gracious age at the Hyde Park Hotel. Enjoy our seasonal offer of £145 for one or two guests in a double room, including VAT, service and traditional breakfast in the Park Room Restaurant.

To make your reservation please telephone 071 823 2003 or fax 071 235 4552.

Hyde Park Hotel

66 Knightsbridge, London SW1Y 7LA

AN EXCLUSIVE HOTEL BY FORTE

Offer available until 31st January 1994. Subject to availability.

Dr Tom Sanders and **Peter Bazalgette** conclude their look at dieting

Magic cures? A fat chance

As the cult of thinness has gradually perverted our view of our bodies, so a huge range of misleading and even fraudulent products has emerged to exploit the situation. These pills, potions and magic cures don't help you lose body fat.

Appetite suppressants: These products are supposed to take away hunger pangs. Some of them are really no more than sugar pills. The idea is that if you have a little bit of sugar before a meal it will blunt your appetite. It sounds a good idea, but it doesn't work in the long run because over-eating is usually the result of greediness or habit.

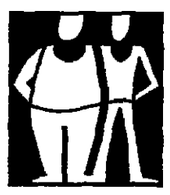
Bulking agents: This is where the con men have had a real field day. They advertise pills which you take before meals to feel fuller. Generally they use such tiny amounts of the bulking agents such as guar gum or sugar beet fibre that it fails to make you feel full, or they use so much that it gives you wind and, worse still, could cause a blockage of the intestines.

Body wraps: Some health farms and clinics are now offering to wrap people in bandages and cover them with mud. It is alleged that this opens the pores of the skin and "toxins" from around fat tissue come out. Weight-loss is achieved through the sweating. Reduction in size is purely temporary.

Creams: Creams have been sold with the claim that they will dissolve cellulite. One called Fadeaway claimed that all you needed to do was to rub the cream into the skin and the fat would disappear — literally, vanishing cream. They simply do not work.

Diuretics: Diuretics are compounds that make your body lose water and therefore (temporarily) weight. Some quack practitioners prescribe diuretic drugs for the treatment of obesity. Such diuretics are of no value for losing fat and may be hazardous. They can lead to the loss of essential minerals such as potassium from the body.

Drugs: Various drugs are being developed that stimulate the metabolic rate (the speed at which our bodies use up nutrients to provide us with energy). Nicotine, which is present in cigarettes, increases the metabolic rate. This is why smokers tend to be lighter in weight than non-smokers. Other drugs known to increase metabolic rate are ephedrine and bromocriptine. All these drugs have unpleasant side-effects.



Fad diets: These are diets that tell you to eat only one food, such as grapefruit or bananas. If you are confined to eating any one food, then you soon get bored, so that limits how much you eat. People do lose weight over a short period on such diets, but they have no special properties.

Fibre: A few years ago high-fibre diets were all the rage. It was claimed that if you ate a lot of fibre it would fill you up so that you wouldn't feel hungry. In the short term a bulky diet may make you feel fuller, but unfortunately most people rapidly adapt as their stomachs stretch.

Gadgets: A variety of gadgets are on sale, such as sauna pants, massage machines and electric pads to make your muscles contract. They promise to trim your stomach, pummel your thighs or scrub up the flab. You don't need a machine to take exercise.

Green diets: One of the more recent rackets has been to cash in on environmental issues to sell "green" or vegetarian diets and "green" diet books. There are no particularly weight-reducing properties resulting from excluding meat and fish from the diet.

Laxatives: Some people take laxatives because they think it will help them lose weight. Laxatives and purgatives can cause malabsorption of nutrients leading to weight loss and nutritional deficiencies. Some powerful laxatives like croton oil and phenolphthalein have been linked with cancer and have now been banned.

Liposuction: This is a surgical technique to remove fat from beneath the skin by suction through a needle. It is not an effective means of treating obesity, and if not carried out properly can lead to permanent disfiguration.

Slimming patches: You attach a seaweed preparation to your skin and the claim is that it passes from the patch into your blood and speeds up your metabolism so you burn off calories faster. Nonsense.

Spot-reducing fat: Some diets claim you can spot-reduce fat from your hips and thighs. This is a myth. It is not possible to use diet or exercise to cause fat to be lost from specific parts of the body.

Sprays: These sprays are supposed to take your appetite away. They usually consist of a mixture of vitamins, amino acids and grapefruit extract. You're supposed to squirt it in your mouth when you are hungry. Unfortunately, there is not a shred of evidence to show that they work.

Very low calorie diets: These are a form of meal replacement that usually provide up to 600 calories per day in the form of milk shakes or snack bars. They lead to rapid loss of weight and experts agree that they should not be used except under medical supervision.

Water loss tablets: Pills with a diuretic effect which make your body lose fluids. A number of herbs have this effect, and the process can fool you into thinking you've lost weight. But any loss is temporary and could be dangerous.

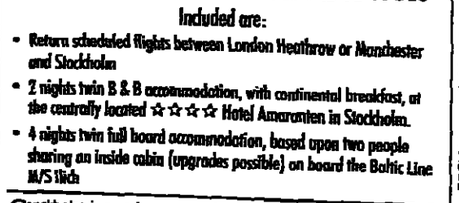
Yo-yo diets: These are diets that encourage a cycle of fasting and bingeing. You starve yourself one week and pig out the next week. Drastic changes in diet are bad news. If you want to lose weight, then you should aim to do it gently and change those habits that led to you being overweight in the first place.

● *An edited extract from* You Don't Have to Diet *by Dr Tom Sanders and Peter Bazalgette, to be published next week by Bantam (£5.99). All rights reserved.*

AMSTERDAM • BARCELONA • BOSTON • BRUGES • BUDAPEST • DUBLIN • FLORENCE • LISBON • MADRID • PARIS • PRAGUE • ROME • SEVILLE • VENICE

ST PETERSBURG & STOCKHOLM & CRUISE

FROM ONLY £537



THURSDAY DEPARTURES FROM 05 FEB TO 16 DEC

Included are:

- Return scheduled flights between London Heathrow or Manchester and Stockholm
- 2 nights twin B & B accommodation, with continental breakfast, at the centrally located ☆☆☆☆ Hotel Amaranten in Stockholm.
- 4 nights twin full board accommodation, based upon two people sharing an inside cabin (upgrades possible) on board the Baltic Line M/S Ilich

Stockholm is a serious contender for the title "The World's Most Beautiful Capital". With its elegant seafront framing clear blue waters. Where Lake Malaren meets the Baltic Sea, numerous islands skirt the shores, creating beautiful vistas.

Walk the narrow streets crowded with ancient buildings on the islands of Gamla Stan. Visit outstanding museums, take a ferry out to sea and sail around Stockholm's archipelago of 24,000 islands or take a boat trip to the baroque splendour of the 17th century Drottingholm Palace, home to the Swedish royal family.

From Stockholm cruise to the splendours of Tsar Peter the Great's "Window to the West", founded in the early 18th century. Elegant and supremely beautiful, imperial St Petersburg stands on 101 islands linked by rivers, canals and bridges. Glittering highlights include the Hermitage, with one of the most fabulous collections in the world. St Peter and Paul Fortress and the cabin of Peter the Great, the Tsar's magnificent summer palace at Petrodvorets, set in gardens enhanced by magical cascading fountains and golden statues or visit the idyllic estates at Pushkin and Pavlovsk.

REGENT TRAVEL SERVICES

ABTA C5278 ATOL 2738

Please quote the reference no. 9500 when phoning for reservations or further details on:

081-960 9066

Regent Travel Services

Mon to Sat 08.30 to 18.30

BOSTON • BRUGES • BUDAPEST • DUBLIN • FLORENCE • LISBON • MADRID • PARIS • PRAGUE • ROME • SEVILLE • VENICE • AMSTERDAM • BARCELONA

هكذا من الأصل

NEWS IN BRIEF

Armed boy threatens pensioners

Disabled attack

Murder charge

Charity letdown

Students killed

Set loose

The bag

Burned

Stranded

Blaze

Chess

John Grigg on political events that should have provoked searching debate in 1993

Small story, big issue

The big media stories of the moment often seem grossly exaggerated in retrospect, while stories that have received comparatively little attention may come to seem far more important. It probably will be difficult for posterity to understand the amount of space — in many newspapers, column-yards rather than column-inches — given to the Princess of Wales's speech at the London Hilton Hotel on December 3. Yet there are stories relating to the British monarchy that deserve to be extensively covered, at any rate in the serious press.

One is the constitutional argument in Australia resulting from prime minister Paul Keating's declared intention to turn the country into a republic by the end of the century. The republic advisory committee that he set up reported in early October, suggesting a number of options for the implementation of his policy. These reflected differences of opinion among the committee's members but, since only avowed republicans were appointed to it, the policy itself was not called in question.

It is, however, being increasingly questioned outside, not least in a powerful little book by an Australian history professor, Alan Atkinson (*Muddle-Headed Republic*, OUP Melbourne). Atkinson, a former Fulbright scholar, who is associate professor at the University of New England, Armidale, New South Wales, argues that the Keating policy "involves not only alienating large numbers within the Australian population, but also driving home the lesson that they belong to the condemned past".

He puts forward four options of his own for the future, including the republican option and the *status quo*. The others are that "the Queen, and her successors, might be asked to spend a substantial part of their time in Australia, say two months each year"; or that "the Queen might be asked to agree to participate in changing the order of succession, so that the monarchy in Australia passes to another branch of the royal family".

The last option is clearly the one he favours, since it "would presumably have the support of Australian monarchists", and "might be acceptable to a number of republicans". This "new and separate monarchy would be reshaped to Australian specifications so as to make it much simpler and cheaper than the British model".

Having proposed this option myself in the past, as well as the one involving periods of residence by the Queen in Australia, I am naturally interested to see them now emanating from an authoritative Australian source. The *status quo* under which the Queen of Australia visits the country only occasionally, as a tourist, is largely responsible for the growth of republican feeling.

The change to a republic could anyway only occur after a referendum, in which a majority would be needed not only in the country as a whole but in each individual state. At present even an overall national majority is doubtful, granted that a recent poll has shown only 29 per cent of Australians aged 50 or over supporting a republic, and no more than 45 per cent support for it among younger adults. Moreover, in at least two states, Queensland and Western Australia, the chances of a majority for it are probably much lower.

Another significant news story from Down Under, hardly noticed here at the time, was New Zealand's referendum on November 6, which decided that the country should change from the first-past-the-post system of election to the German form of proportional representation (PR). In a straight vote between the existing system and the German (itself chosen by referendum last year as the preferred form of PR if there were to be a change) New Zealanders voted by 54 per cent to 46 per cent in favour of the German system. The change will be implemented within the next 18 months.

Campbell: votes spread too thin

Opponents of electoral reform in Britain have made much of Italy's return to first-past-the-post, ignoring the crucial point that the Italian PR system was vitiated by the lowness of the threshold (2 per cent) qualifying a party for representation in parliament. The German system, with its higher threshold (5 per cent), has produced none of the ill effects that were seen in Italy.

In any case we can less easily disregard the example of New Zealand which, though geographically the most remote, is in other respects the closest to us of all the British-derived nations. More than once it has blazed a trail that we have followed. It was the first of these countries to give women the vote, and its scheme of old-age pensions (based on general taxation, not insurance) was copied by Lloyd George when he introduced them here in 1908. That New Zealand should now have turned to PR may be an augury for our own future.

The perverse effect of first-past-the-post has never been more dramatically exhibited than in the Canadian election at the end of October. This made the front pages of our broadsheets at the time, if only because the spectacle of a governing Conservative party reduced from 154 seats to two was an obvious *memento mori* to the Conservative Government here. But the full significance of the result has yet to sink in.

The Canadian Progressive Conservatives, led by Kim Campbell, were virtually eliminated from the House of Commons despite receiving 16 per cent of the national vote, while the Reform Party won 52 seats with 18 per cent and the Bloc Québécois 54 seats with only 14 per cent. The reason for this grotesque distortion is that the strength of the last two parties was more concentrated than that of the Progressive Conservatives, who were, in effect, heavily penalised for being a truly national party.

The *momento mori* of this result applies not only to Britain, but even more, perhaps, America, though I am not aware that it has, as yet, provoked any searching debate there. America is another vast country with a federal constitution and a traditional duopoly of power, with which the electorate shows signs of becoming disillusioned. Ross Perot's 19 per cent vote in the last presidential election was the largest for a third-party candidate since 1912 — when a former president, Theodore Roosevelt, ran as an independent.

But Perot, like the Canadian Conservatives, suffered from having a nationwide vote, spread too thin for him to win a single state. The danger for the future in America is likely to come from the ethnic factor, on the analogy of Quebec.

Among America's population of 250 million, two ethnic minorities together account for one-fifth of the total: the blacks, or African-Americans, total 30 million, and the Hispanics 22 million.

Neither is so concentrated, geographically or politically, as the French Canadians, but in many states one or the other has a power-base similar to that of the Reform Party in the western provinces of Canada.

If either or both of these big ethnic minorities were to act independently, and still more if they were to act together, the Republican-Democrat duopoly would be broken and American politics would be transformed.

One superpower has already dissolved into a welter of ethnic conflict. The risk that the other might go the same way, though for various reasons less grave, can hardly be discounted.

Charity begins with a royal

It used to be simple. In America, they have film stars. Here, we have royalty to add glam and glitz to what would otherwise be dire charity events. We happily sign away our Christmas bonuses in the knowledge that we will rub royal shoulders and perhaps even press the regal palm at some bash/ball/lunch at the Savoy/Hilton/Ritz.

But now the Princess of Wales has officially bowed out of public life. This is bad news for the socially aspiring, but absolutely terrible news for the 114 charities of which the Princess is patron or president. They include Relate, formerly the Marriage Guidance Council, the National Aids Trust, Barnado's and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children.

Charity officials have been doing their sums. Last year, Vivienne Parry, in the *Handbook to the Season*, published by Veuve Clicquot and *Tatler*, worked out how the choice of Royal Patron dictates the ticket prices of charity balls. The magic words "In the presence of HRH the Princess of Wales" guarantees at least £200 a ticket for the charity. The same goes for the Queen. The Princess Royal justifies £75 a ticket; Princess Margaret and Princess Michael of Kent £50 a ticket.

No one has quite calculated the cost of the Princess's exit stage left. She attended 235 engagements in 1992, many with her favourite charity organisations. Her new engagements list, to be published in January, will show a big reduction. The Princess's

RACHEL KELLY

contribution to charity fund-raising runs into millions. As a leading figure in the Great Ormond Street Wishing Well Appeal — she laid the foundation stone of the new building that it funded — she must take credit for helping to raise much of the £54 million.

It was not ever thus. Over the past decade, the rules of royal fund-raising have subtly changed. Until quite recently, no senior royal would head an appeal for money. They could be identified with a charity, but it was considered inappropriate metaphorically to rattle a collecting tin and ask for cash on the nail, please.

The Duke of Edinburgh broke with convention in his work for the World Wide Fund for Nature. In turn, younger members of the firm followed his example. The machine is now finely-tuned. Charities can expect two sources of revenue from a royal event. First, ticket sales; second, lump sums, averaging £5,000 to £10,000 from donors who in return will be in a presentation line to meet the royals. The convention is for the charity to inform Buckingham Palace about the reason for the "sponsor's presence", the relevant royal will be briefed and the sponsor will receive his or her word of thanks.

Without the Princess, charity balls will be sadder and cheaper events. No one, the charity world agrees, can match her allure. As Ewa Lewis, social editor of *Tatler*, has said: "The Princess of Wales is the biggest crowd-puller." She can transform an unfashionable charity (Birthright) into a fashionable one; take an unappealing cause (Aids) and make it appealing. Her presence guarantees newspaper coverage; her style ensures social cachet.

Who can replace her? One obvious answer is other royals. A new crop of younger royals have yet to be fully tapped for the royal pulling power. The recently married Lady Helen Taylor comes with a young, racy set that includes Cosima von Bulow, the Marquess of Milford Haven and Robert Hanson. She has already begun to be involved with charity work for the Trevor Jones Trust for Spinal Injuries and various Aids charities. Greater involvement could scoop up more of the younger generation of ladies who lunch.

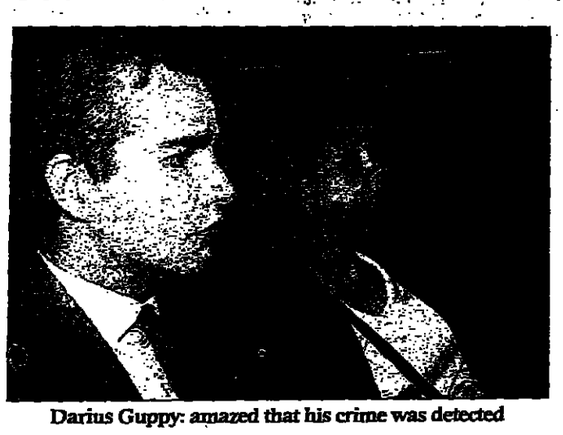
The new Viscountess Linley could follow the example of her mother-in-law, Princess Margaret, who has a good record for charitable work. In time, the princes William and Harry will undoubtedly play their part. The young Wills is already learning to take his charitable responsibilities seriously and visited a centre for the homeless with his mother earlier this month.

But that is the future. At the Charities Aid Foundation in Tonbridge, Kent, staff keep two lists of supporters to charities. One is headed "Royal"; the other "Celebrities". Celebs divide between sports stars (for example, Frank Bruno, Tessa Sanderson and Gary Lineker); showbiz (Joan Collins, Yasmin le Bon); and the aristocracy (Lady Tyron, Lady Brocket, the Countess of Buckinghamshire).

Until the young Princes grow up, there will be a real gap in the royal patronage power which combines the fun and style of youth with good works. Celebrities meanwhile will have to plug the gap. But there are dangers. Any old famous people assuaging their guilt at being famous may be inappropriate for some charities. Second-class celebrities could imply second-rate charitable causes. The joy of the Princess of Wales was that she guaranteed that any charity she touched must be worthwhile. Cause celebs will not be the same with her departure.

It was the year of the cad

They see themselves as glamorous desperadoes doing as they please in a boring world. **Julia Llewellyn Smith** on the return of the bounder



Darius Guppy: amazed that his crime was detected

UNS/ANDY TYNDALL

The Marquess of Blandford: in and out of the headlines for a series of misdemeanours

Not so long ago a gentleman who told the world that his fiancée was a "silly old tart" was a gentleman facing the social gulag. Old school friends would have turned away when he entered the club, his mantelpiece would be stripped of invitations and he would be constantly glancing over his shoulder, anticipating the arrival of a horsewhip-wielding brother.

Today, however, such behaviour is more likely to be rewarded with half a dozen newspaper interviews, offers of book contracts and a regular slot as the Bounder on the Box with ITV's *This Morning*.

Such, at any rate, has been the lot of Broderick Munro-Wilson, a polo-playing friend of the Prince of Wales, former Grand National gentleman jockey and now a merchant banker.

Mr Munro-Wilson achieved his spurious fame after receiving a suspended sentence for harassing his former fiancée Samantha Bleby. Summing up in the High Court, Mr Justice Otton said: "With your background, social standing and education, even now one would expect you to behave like a gentleman and not like a cad, which is the way you have behaved."

It seemed like a strange, old-fashioned accusation and Mr Munro-Wilson has flourished as a result, playing with gusto the part of a cravat-wearing, two-timing, upper-class buffoon. But Mr Otton meant what he said, and must have regretted that Mr Munro-Wilson's truly caddish behaviour calling Samantha a "tired old mare", in the tabloid press, could not be punished in a court of law.

Cads will nearly always get off lightly. The dictionary says a cad is "someone who behaves in an ungentlemanly way"; in other words someone who breaks no rules except the unwritten ones which govern polite society. A cad can receive no penalty except the disapproval of his peers.

All the same, this year the courts have seen a striking number of cases of what can only be described as caddish behaviour. Think, for example, of Austen Donnellan, the student acquitted of raping a friend. Mr Donnellan was not a rapist, but he did admit to having sex with his accuser, a woman so drunk she could not stand up.

In a similar case Angus Diggle was jailed for three years for attempting to rape a friend after a ball. "Well, I have been out with her. I have spent £200 on her. Why can't I do what I did to her?" he is reported to have told police.

The pathetic thing about the Diggle case is that he would not have counted as a cad if he had not wanted so much to be a gentleman. Diggle convinced most people he was of upper-crust Scottish stock and was a public school boy when, in fact, he had lived all his life in Bolton.

When confronted by the woman he tried to rape and her friends, he said: "This is so ordinary and you people are so boring. You obviously did not go to public school."

All cads share this conviction that they are special people and that rules are for dullards. According to friends, Darius Guppy, who in March was jailed for five years for his part in a £1.8 million gems sting, had always seen himself as a romantic figure, prone to challenging love rivals to duels and driving around in a black Mercedes with the James Bond theme blasting through the windows.

A contemporary of his at Oxford said: "He endlessly repeated that it was a boring time in which to live and it was up to people like us to create our own adventures." Police said Guppy was amazed that his crime was detected. "He didn't think a mere policeman could catch him," said Detective Inspector Peter Avery, who headed the investigation.

It is this arrogance, on top of his crime, which singled Guppy out as a cad *par excellence*. In this, however, he was outdone by the Marquess of Blandford, who was in and out of the headlines all year for interminable misdemeanours. The heir to Blenheim Palace and a £100 million fortune has already twice been jailed for speeding and possessing heroin. This year assorted transgressions included refusing to pay taxi fares, withholding maintenance from his estranged wife and going on the run from the police.

Yet Blandford appears unabashed by his record, seeming to think that it casts him in the role of a glamorous desperado. "One has to live dangerously otherwise life would be so maudlin," he said recently, when on the run. "Of course I am not going to give myself up. We are a family of winners, not losers. I will do like my great ancestors would have done."

These men are clear fantasists yet some people are taken in by them. Guppy's wife Patricia is standing by him, while Blandford has managed to engage the affections of a former Heathfield head girl, Arabella Zamoyska, aged 19 to his 37. Miss Zamoyska's devotion is baffling but touching. "I have said to him that if he goes back to drugs, he knows damn well that he will lose me," she says. "I make those threats to James because I must. But knowing me, even if he does slip back I'll probably still be there for him."

A similar startling devotion is shown by Jane Clark, wife for 35 years of former Tory minister Alan, whose diaries, published

> Cads get off lightly. They all share the conviction that they are special people and that rules are for dullards

earlier this year, may well become the cad's Bible. With a total disregard for discretion or loyalty, the gentleman's favourite virtues, Mr Clark spared nobody, repeating private conversations and tearful confidences word for word. Subtlety is not a virtue of Mr Clark's: Tom King is described at one point as a "loathsome puffball". Mr King was his friend.

Such comments are bad enough, but they pale compared to the treatment meted out to Mrs Clark. Mr Clark has had affairs with scores of women, he tells us, and fantasised about affairs with literally hundreds more. Mrs Clark appeared unfazed by what others saw as a very public humiliation. "I know he's an S-H-one-T but that's it", she said on television.

And so the list goes on. There was Bryce Taylor, owner of a gym frequented by the Princess of Wales, who betrayed her trust by taking photographs of her working out and selling them to the *Daily Mirror*. There was Steven Norris, another Conservative minister, and his string of mistresses; and there was Gazza, a supposed sporting hero and ambassador for Britain, belching into an Italian reporter's microphone.

Italy was understandably horrified. "How was it possible for an Englishman? The sporting Briton? The Englishman of the handshake and fair play?," thundered the prestigious Turin daily *La Stampa*. The British may be forgetting what the word gentleman means, but the rest of the world still seems to expect a nation who knows that there are some things which are simply "not done".

AMDEGA

CONSERVATORY & SUMMERHOUSE SALE .... NOW WITH AIR MILES!

Substantial reductions on cedar conservatories and summerhouses *and* up to 500 AIR MILES for every £1000 you spend. To find out more call 0800 591523

AIR MILES Travel the World

AIR MILES AND THE FLYING BOAT LOGO ARE TRADEMARKS OF AIR MILES INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS N.V.

Alan Coren

■ I may not quite have got the thread of the story, but it was a great film

It's a quarter to three, no one in bed except Bing and me, but will he be able to loose off a sharpish depth-charge and put paid to Groucho's U-boat before Sean and Ingrid Connery get to the second chorus of *White Christmas?* — that is the question. At least, that is the question when the quarter-to-three is the one you get on December 28 after four days of hurtling non-stop from room to room because everyone is watching a different movie, and you want to watch all the movies, too, but you are the host and you have to hurtle from room to room about your hosting business, who's for a turkey-and-gherkin sandwich, anyone need their drink freshening, anyone fancy charades, what about a hot mince pie, Monopoly, Scrabble, shall I put the kettle on, hey, what do you say to Cluedo, and by the way does anyone know the couple sleeping in the boiler-room, and while I'm here, how many for cold chipolatas? — and now it is 2.45 am on Christmas Tuesday, i.e. the day before the eve of pre-New-Year's-Eve, and you are lying here trembling, dyspeptic, hung-over, insomniac, racked by *delirium yulens* and staring at a ceiling which has all these images flickering across it, oh, look, here comes dear old Ebenezer Finney, why has he suddenly turned into a fly, he will never pull Catherine Deneuve now, flies are not her type, can it be that some bastard has got his hands on the Kryptonite and is mucking his super-molecules about, if so he will not only fail to pull Catherine Deneuve, he will in all probability be too late to persuade Whoopie Goldberg to team up with Fred Astaire for one last desperate crack at preventing the Chicago White Sox from snatching the 1919 World Series from under the very noses of the Railway Children, doesn't it break your heart, every day they run down to the OK Corral to see if their darling daddy is back from Vietnam yet, but their darling daddy is never coming back from Vietnam, he has met Michael Palin on Mont Blanc and they have fallen inextricably for one another, this will be bad news for *darling mummy, she will be forced to shack* up with Harold Lloyd and before you know it her kids will be the Clock Children, every day they will have to run down to the corner of 34th and Broadway to see if their new darling daddy has fallen off the mainspring yet, but hang on, stone me, that is not Harold on the big hand at all, that is Patrick Swayze, what is he doing up there, I thought he came back from the dead to dance with Ginger just one more time in the hope of heading Josie Clintwood off at the pass and thereby preventing him from turning up uninvited on the night before Katharine Hepburn's swish Philadelphia wedding and running away with her, it would never work, especially as she now seems to have turned into Audrey, she would be far better off sticking to Woody Allen, he may not be Cecil Parker, but when he pulls Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang round to the front door, pops Lassie in his lap, and warbles "They Can't Take that away from Me", what woman could resist?

Then again, he *may* be Cecil Parker, I suddenly find myself unsure, the thing is his face was somewhat obscured by the corks dangling round his hat and the crocodile he was wrestling, that is the kind of problem you can so easily run up against in St Petersburg if you are dumb enough to sit down at the card-table with Harpo Marx, never mind having Edith Evans creating an unwarranted diversion by banging away on her Bofors gun at Richard Arlen's Sopwith Camel, if you ask me she should never have left Jeremy Irons, the experience has clearly unhinged her, and it did precious little for him either, if his peculiar behaviour aboard the Starship Enterprise is anything to go by.

Can't think about that now, though: I see from the ceiling clock that the little hand is nearly on 7, and Patrick Swayze is nearly on 11, it is hardly worth trying to get to sleep now, I could sneak downstairs before anyone else wakes up and have a plate of fried eggs and turkey and a telly all to myself, I seem to recall from *The Sunday Times* that at 7.05 am, BBC2 is showing *Mr Lucky*, seductively potted as a film in which "Cary Grant plays a gambling ship owner who escapes the draft and tries to swindle a charity run by a rich heiress to pay for refitting his vessel". Sounds just my sort of thing.

Vladimir Zhirinovsky's rise has given Moscow's intellectuals pause for thought, says **Anne McElvoy**

Is tyranny rooted in the Russian psyche?

Whose fault is Vladimir Zhirinovsky? *Like the village intruder* Beelzebub in Gogol's short story "On the Eve of Christmas", he arrived with malicious bad timing in the waning days of the year, when Russians were anxious to put politics out of their minds and concentrate on laying in the stocks of New Year *Champanskoye*. Since his election success, he has bounced around Moscow threatening the revival of the Soviet Union, subjugation of non-Slavs and the end of Western-style reforms — the post-communist equivalent of turning the milk sour and cracking the mirrors.

The result is that the toasts in the dachas of Moscow's intelligentsia are subdued, and the prospect is that whatever else 1994 may hold in store, it is likely to contain a lot of Mr Zhirinovsky. His rude energy seems boundless.

This week he took off on his Aeroflot broomstick to spread his mischief abroad. So far he has visited a former Waffen SS soldier in Vienna, told the Italians that Russia owns a superweapon capable of destroying the West, and upset the Bulgarians by calling on them to take on a key role in the Balkans and absorb Macedonia. Whatever misdemeanours one can accuse him of, hiding his intentions is not one of them.

Mr Zhirinovsky has smashed the fragile harmony of the last months in Moscow. But he was only able to succeed in so doing because it was a sham peace. The gap between the government's verbose commitment to a less and less clear programme of economic restructuring and the population's fears about its effects on their wellbeing was becoming intolerably wide.

Now Russia's real liberals are being forced to explain the "Zhirinovsky phenomenon" (how he must love this description), and to suggest ways to deal with the neo-fascist "Liberal Democrats" in parliament and to hinder their leader's ambition of succeeding Boris Yeltsin as president.

Many can no longer find the words which before December 12 poured so glibly from their lips, in set formulae such as "irreconcilable opposition", "hardline threat" and "support of the Russian people". Others are indulging in a rictus of blame. It is the fault of the ignorant masses who believed the demagogue's sweet lies rather than endure bitter truth, runs one widely held thesis. It is the fault of state television's management for allowing Mr Zhirinovsky so much screen-time, enabling him to cut a dashing swathe through the democrats' platitudes, say others. But he alone showed the consummate politician's instinct of pinpointing the nation's fears and insecurities and addressing them. In this sense, the sane politicians could learn a lot from a mad one.

There is panic in the air, and it is not only those professionally involved with the task of reforming Russia who feel personally threatened by Mr Zhirinovsky. His ascent has caused a cold shiver among the country's intelligentsia, who fear with some justification that he could attempt to create a society as repressive as the Soviet one. Everyone who values tolerance, choice and freedom of speech felt the force of the ugly message he hurled at a table of his opponents on election night: "This is not your party, this is your wake."

But Mr Zhirinovsky has played on an anti-intellectualism espoused by the present administration in order to shield it from the criticism of former allies. One of the telling dislocations over the last year has been that between the intelligentsia and reformist politicians. Mr Yeltsin's failure to maintain links with the grassroots pro-democracy movement which helped him to power not only shows ingratitude, but risks losing a constituency traditionally important in Russian society.

Over the past two years, there has been little room in the Kremlin for thinkers other than economists. Bulat Okudchava, a gentle sage-cum-poet irritated the radicals with his pronouncement, "We are all still Bolsheviks somewhere in our hearts" and his warnings that totalitarianism is rooted in Russian society, the more dangerous for being unacknowledged. His views were dismissed without discussion as the work of pessimistic detractor by an ascendancy which failed to distinguish between a proper sense of purpose and a smug presumption of the moral, political and economic high ground.

Blaming the rulers is an old and easy Russian habit, which has long preserved intelligent members of the population from uncomfortable examination of their own role in shaping events. To charge politicians with failing to convince the nation of the advantages of democracy over dictatorship is to tell only half the story. One simple reason for the extreme right's *succès fou* is that only 53 per cent of Russians voted. People did not consider democracy still so vulnerable as to need defending at the ballot box, and in their carelessness they left ajar the door to extremism.

The sudden emergence of a chilling alternative has at least made clearer the value of freedoms only recently gained but rapidly taken for granted. As the old proverb has it, the pike in the river is there to stop the carp from falling asleep. The prospect of Mr Zhirinovsky's uneven dentistry bearing down on them may yet, when the thrashing is done, remind Russia's democrats — big and small — how much they have to lose.

Only the parents can decide

Bringing new life into the world is the most intimate of decisions, and should be no concern of meddling governments

Time was when a Christmas Day birth would have won headlines of delight. This year, the headlines were sickening. To a woman's moment of joy, journalists, doctors and politicians brought wormwood and gall. The reason was that the woman was 59. She had "defied nature", and been helped in her pregnancy by hormone treatment and in-vitro fertilisation.

No consideration was shown for her presumed happiness. There was barely a nod at the hypocrisy that says a woman of 59 is not fit to bring up a child but a father of 59 is a splendid instance of British virility. The birth qualified for that terrible title, "controversial". The woman was thus a modern witch, to be set in a ducking-stool and subjected to *torture by soundbite.*

There was no end to the rubbish. Dr John Marks, formerly of the British Medical Association, spoke of his "horror" at a case that "bordered on the Frankenstein syndrome". Dr Stuart Horner of the BMA's ethics committee opposed such births on the ground that the twins will confront parents of a "wholly foreign generation". A BBC newscast bewailed the fact that the British government is "powerless to stop a women deciding to have a child". Mrs Bottomley, the health secretary, popped up time and again to voice not her congratulation, but her "reservations". She declared that "women do not have the right to a child". She would get European health ministers to act on this in the New Year. (Those ministers who could be reached, including those of Italy, Spain and The Netherlands, gave Mrs Bottomley a lesson in dignity by commenting that this was a strictly private matter and they had no intention of intervening.)

If scientists can now help infertile or older women to have normal babies, good for science. Such women are no more "defying nature" than is abortion or IVF or hormone replacement therapy. If British doctors and clinics are too squeamish or scared of the press to perform such operations, all credit to the Italians. There is no reason why the sperm of a 45-year-old man and the egg of a 25-year-old woman implanted in a healthy 59-year-old should not produce normal babies. If the woman is rich and the Italian doctor is a publicity seeking entrepreneur, so what? Hysteria surrounds every scientific advance in the field of medicine. A particular taboo seems to afflict advances by which women have been enabled to control their bodies and thus their lives. The more reason to applaud those who break the taboo.

I am sure a 59-year-old parent does not need a squawk of agony aunts to tell her that bringing up twins at her age will be tiring. Nor does she need a whinge of pundits to point out that they would have a different upbringing were their parents 19-year-olds, or 29-year-olds, or 39-year-olds. But to conclude, without a shred of knowledge of the parents, that this upbringing will be worse, indeed so awful that the births should have been prevented, is insufferable. What business is this of anyone else's?

Rosanna Della Corte, who has become pregnant at 62, with her husband and the doctor who helped them

Simon Jenkins

The world is full of children sired out of wedlock, or by absent fathers, or brought up by grandparents, orphaned, fostered, even abandoned. In my experience, older couples tend to make more stable and loving homes than younger ones. There are fewer divorces among people in their fifties than among those in their twenties. Relatives, perhaps even doctors, might seek to discourage couples of all ages from having children in undesirable circumstances. Some children of elderly parents might wish they had never been born, though I doubt it. But the ultimate responsibility lies with the parents, and the parents alone. This is the most intimate of decisions.

Mrs Bottomley disagrees, and insists that her great clodhopping department must immediately intervene, with the backing of Brussels. She declares — is this a cabinet decision? — that a British woman has "no right to a child". But who has usurped this right? The answer is, central government under the banner of its "family values" campaign. If age is now a criterion by which central government decides whom science may assist at birth, what other criteria are on the agenda? There must be a case for banning teenage pregnancy, on the statistical evidence that the children may experience a broken home. Certain genetic features may also be unwelcome: for instance, a history of mental illness or disability. Perhaps HIV or addicted parents should be impeded from conceiving. As women seek what they wrongly thought was their right by getting treatment abroad, will Mrs Bottomley pursue and prosecute them throughout Europe? All this from the party of parental choice!

No incident has set a grimmer seal on a year in which a cynical Conservative party has adopted the conventional family as its totem. At the party conference, single mothers were vilified as "worse" parents — by politicians whose neglect of their own children renders their wives single in all but name. The marital misfortunes of the Royal Family have been made a subject of political comment — by politicians whose own marital mishaps are put down to "the pressures of the job".

Most outrageous has been the affair of the Child Support Agency. Here, government has usurped not only the right of couples to agree divorce settlements between themselves, but also their right to have a court ratify such settlements. This right has been shifted to government, ostensibly to cut the cost to the Treasury of family support.

Picking up the bill for the breakdown of families is certainly expensive, but for better or worse it is what social security is for. It may need reform. So be it. But mothers do not have children to spite the Treasury. Fathers do not get divorced to infuriate Mr Lilley or Mrs Bottomley. Divorce is not a tragedy, but the outcome of a tragedy, an ill-judged marriage. The government has responded not by cutting entitlement, but by deciding for itself how each tragedy shall be handled.

The effect is that every British child has been rendered an actual or potential ward of central government. The social security secretary, Peter Lilley, acting through his Child Support Agency, has the power to put every father's income at *the mercy of a state official.* The father's status as a taxpayer is subordinated to his status as parent — and he can get no redress in any court. This is an astonishing extension of state power over individual rights.

Wishing that young people behaved better towards children is one thing. Treating every aspect of family life as a matter of government policy is another. Mrs Bottomley and Mr Lilley are drifting in a deeply un-Conservative direction: towards a belief that there is no realm of personal behaviour in which government does not have the right to intervene. If a woman chooses to have children outside marriage, then government must act. If couples persist in divorcing and remarrying, then government must act. If women postpone having children until after they have begun or even completed their careers, then government must act. The one phrase that must never pass a ministerial lip is "This is not a matter for government."

The essence of in-vitro fertilisation, for mothers of whatever age, is that it has granted them a personal freedom. Medical science has done its duty. It has offered women choice — as it long ago offered them the choice of painless childbirth. Such choice can be taxing as well as joyful. Choice often is. Some people clearly find the choice unnerving, even threatening. Much of the comment on the 59-year-old mother has seemed to be rooted in envy. How dare she get away with the happiness of both a career and a family? How dare she exercise the choice? The answer is that she does have the choice, and she dares to exercise it. Politicians are wrong to deny it, and to pander to the envy, ignorance and hypocrisy of others who would do the same. They are even more wrong to claim that the choice properly lies with them. This is patronising and interfering. Ministers recently made great play at not having their private lives intruded upon by a prurient public. I wonder how one 59-year-old feels about Mrs Bottomley's intrusion this Christmas. I wonder how two children will one day feel about those who tried to stop them living.

Forgive and reward

IF John Profumo is knighted, or even ennobled, in the New Year's honours list, it will be seen as a reward for 30 years of tireless charity work in London's East End. There remains, however, the distinct possibility that any honour will herald fresh embarrassment for Profumo — coinciding as it would, with the release under the 30-year rule of government papers covering the events that brought about his downfall.

The 1963 scandal, which resulted in Profumo, then War Secretary, being forced to resign after lying to Parliament about his relationship with Christine Keeler, is now an irrelevance, say his friends. Indeed, if current moral standards of government had applied, they say, he could have stayed in office indefinitely.

Lord Denning, who chaired an enquiry into the circumstances surrounding Profumo's resignation, says he would be "absolutely delighted" for Profumo to be made a lord. "All he has done should be recognised. I would be very much in favour of it."

Author Philip Knightley, who wrote about the affair six years ago in *An Affair of State: The Profumo Case and the Framing of Stephen Ward*, believes that "the time is right for a peerage. The whole thing was a storm in a teacup anyway. There was no security risk. Christine Keeler has admitted that she was not sleeping with Eugene Ivanov [a Russian naval attaché] at the same time. His big mistake was to lie to the House of Commons. He was badly advised. Now the whole thing is 30 years ago, and Profumo has done more to merit a peerage than a lot of peers."

All-party list

WHETHER or not Profumo's name features in it, John Major is clearly out to demonstrate an admirable lack of bias when drawing up the New Year's honours list. He has offered an OBE to *Guardian* journalist John Palmer.

Palmer, doyen of the Brussels press corps, is a fervent Euro-federalist, and as a former member of the Trotskyite International Socialists is unashamedly left-wing.

Too left-wing even for the classless society, it seems. For like the good old-fashioned socialist he is, Palmer remains sternly opposed to the honours system — and has rejected the accolade. "It was not really appropriate, so I very politely declined," he discloses.

Graceless

THE Department of National Heritage's Christmas Eve announcement that Lord Gowrie is to succeed Lord Palumbo as Arts Council chairman next year raised some eyebrows in the art world. Not because it was unexpected, but because it so successfully submerged the other big heritage news of the day — the 18-month delay of the export of *The Three Graces* to the Getty Museum.

A coincidence? Sir Roy Strong, former director of the V & A, is doubtful. "It's happened before. The Getty must be pretty fed up. It makes sense for the Heritage Department to time the announcements together. Also the length of time is astonishing: I've never heard of a delay of 18 months before."

A spokesman, however, pleads innocence. "I never got the impression it was a cover-up. I think it was more about wanting to clear our desks before Christmas."

● *Apart from casting a discerning eye over the latest Donna Karan lingerie range, the Princess of Wales has also been restoring one Washington shopworker's faith in astrology. Tony Siscosky, who served the Princess a cappuccino in Saks, had read his horoscope, which foretold he would "have a dialogue with someone from a foreign land". So it proved. The Princess thanked him for the coffee, saying it was "really delicious". As an overcome Siscosky put it, "That counts as dialogue to me".*

DIARY

Man with a van

A SEVERELY rusted, underpowered chunk of British motor-racing history is to go under the hammer in February. And there should be no shortage of buyers.

For the A35 van, to be sold by the specialist auctioneers Brooks, belonged to James Hunt and was a familiar sight at race meetings where Hunt practised his much-missed double act with Murray Walker. Also being sold by Hunt's executors is a rather grander Mercedes 240 SEL, which — towards the sudden end of his turbulent life — the former world champion kept on bricks. But Hunt, who made and spent several fortunes, always hoped to get the Merc back on the road. As he told friends: "Maybe one day, when my ship comes in . . ."

She hunted in vain

NOT FOR the first time, Jilly Cooper has been finding the line between fact and fiction a little blurred. But as ever, the author of such jodhpur-rippers as *Riders* and *Polo* has been making amends — with unexpected results.

When four suspicious packages recently arrived at the Atherstone hunt, the four joint masters lost no time in calling the police. When the police delicately unwrapped the parcels, however, they found not the expected explosive greeting from angry saboteurs — but a picture book with text by Cooper.

It was, she says, her way of apologising to the hunt for inadvertently borrowing its name when she "invented" a hunt for the book *Araminta's Wedding* — a short and ribald tale of life amid the upper classes, illustrated by Sue Macartney-Snape and containing a generous credit from Cooper to her friend Andrew Parker Bowles for his "hilarious" contributions.

Jilly Cooper and her friend Andrew Parker Bowles

Cooper's Atherstone hunts in Lincolnshire, whereas the real Atherstone thrills to the chase in Warwickshire. "It was one of those ghastly things," she moans. "I made up the name because I had invented the Earl of Atherstone — I went through Debrett's and found no Atherstone so I didn't think there would be a hunt."

But the matter has now been safely defused. "The Atherstone Hunt Club has a dinner about every ten years, and we are about due for one," says joint master Richard Tyacke. "We thought we would ask her to speak at the dinner — and she has accepted."

● *Lord Lichfield's plans to capture the delights of Birmingham's new cross-city line for a 1994 calendar have been delayed — by the late arrival of the new trains. "The plan now is for Lord Lichfield to take the photographs this year," says an apologetic spokesman. "So a 1995 calendar can be produced, which will be available this time next year." One for the photographer's charter, perhaps.*

هكذا من الأصل

LITTLE PLATOONS

The buffers between family and state protect the vulnerable

The five cases of children left at home by their parents over Christmas have inspired understandable outrage and a sense of panic about the apparent decline of family bonds. To abandon a child is always irresponsible: at this time of year it is peculiarly heartless.

Yet the lessons of these emotive cases are not all bleak. The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children warns that it is receiving 60 calls a month from neighbours anxious about deserted children and that this number is rising. This reflects poorly on the families concerned. But it also reflects well on the callers who bothered to telephone the NSPCC's helpline. If parental negligence is growing, then so is neighbourly concern.

The neighbourhood remains the most basic social unit other than the family — yet one which is little discussed. This is a curious and potentially damaging omission in political discourse, which still concentrates too heavily upon the relationship between the individual and the state.

The difficulties of single parenthood, for instance, raise questions of individual morality and sexual conduct; they are also of concern to the state, which must try to support the needy without encouraging dependency. But between Leviathan and citizen lie the communities in which single parent families live and which bear a basic responsibility for their welfare. The fact that the police were alerted at all in the recent cases of child desertion suggests that the instincts of neighbourliness remain powerful.

No society which aspires to reduce the role of the state can be indifferent to the "little platoons" which Burke so esteemed. Foremost among contemporary threats to the fabric of neighbourhood is litigiousness. In Germany, the number of court actions between neighbours has increased at a remarkable rate, forcing citizens to take out insurance policies against being sued.

In this country, a similar tendency has become visible in a number of well-publicised cases. In August, for example, a married couple was sent to jail after neighbours complained to Yarmouth borough council about their loud arguments. The following month, a young woman who played the same pop song hundreds of times was found guilty of harassing those living around her. Entertaining as such cases may be, they appear to indicate a degeneracy in local relations and the ability of neighbourhoods to resolve their own disputes. At the other extreme is the declining faith of some communities in officialdom and the rule of law itself. This was evident in the disorder at the Heath Town estate in Wolverhampton on Monday, as an angry crowd tried to prevent police and social workers taking into care three young children left alone in squalor by their father. It is equally apparent in the unpleasant rise of vigilantism which has led aggrieved members of the public to take the law into their own hands. The pathological face of neighbourhood spirit is the rage of the lynch-mob.

In between these two poles of social behaviour lies the healthy community which seeks to run its own affairs as far as possible and co-operates with government in order to do so. In the 11 years since it was set up, the Neighbourhood Watch scheme has overcome initial scepticism to spawn 115,000 active groups which, if nothing else, have encouraged a sense of local partnership and purpose. The involvement of parents in opted out schools has also encouraged a sense of mutual responsibility and involvement in key institutions. But this evolutionary process is in no sense preordained: the British are a nation of individualists who distrust busybodies and interferers. Neighbourliness in this country therefore requires tactful nurturing. In its health lies the best hope of the vulnerable.

MR RAO'S DR SINGH

India must step up the tempo of economic reform

ew finance ministers who preach, and ractice, fiscal reform are popular anyhere, let alone in developing countries. rgentina's Domingo Cavallo is one; India's anmohan Singh is another. Dr Singh's fer to resign, made after his ministry was iticised by a parliamentary enquiry into a ombay financial scandal, was honourable particularly as the two ministers directly ncerned made no such gesture. But Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister, should beg m to stay. Dr Singh is India's best hope of eaking with its gloomy post-independence story of economic insularity.

Dr Singh is the only thoroughbred in the ily Mr Rao's cabinet, which consists rgely of the usual Indian mix of fixers, odders and venal regional satraps. He is dispensable, a fact stressed by the Indian ess and business sector who, as one, have horted Mr Rao to keep his finance inister on board. Mr Rao's own political ock, in the aftermath of November's gional elections in the key northern "cow elt" states, is high. He can afford to shed his ther timorous methods and go flat out r deeper economic reforms, even if this eans confronting powerful interests.

Under Mr Rao, India has been troubled political instability and communal vience. Although he has a mandate to vern till 1996, he has been haunted by ars that the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya nata Party (BJP), which has offered the untry a dangerous sectarian brew, would ceed in forcing mid-term elections. There now no likelihood of that. The unexpectly poor showing of the BJP in the recent lls has strengthened Mr Rao's hand; and should in turn free those of the capable r Singh.

Although the Nehru legacy of *dirigiste* Fabian economics, long the compulsory prescription for India, has openly been called into question, Mr Rao and Dr Singh have not pushed reforms to their logical conclusions. A number of things remain to be done. While inflation is down to just over 6 per cent and foreign exchange reserves have grown sevenfold since 1991, India's industrial potential is still far from fully realised. Higher growth requires not just fiscal discipline but more deregulation.

The government has been far too reluctant to privatise the extravagantly overmanned public sector; and reform of the Industrial Disputes Act, which requires companies to secure official permission before closing plants or laying workers off, is essential. Furthermore, foreign institutional investors face serious restrictions on the Bombay stock exchange. If these were lifted, India's low inflation and interest rates and the scope for attractive returns would be powerful magnets.

India's new pragmatism, evident in the mature position taken by its negotiators at the Gatt talks, augurs well. The treaty will give the Government a powerful weapon against domestic protectionism, which it must use if India is genuinely to profit from the global economy. It is not just because its citizens demand a higher standard of living that economic growth is important for India. Only the generation of wealth, and its rational utilisation, will bring political stability. Communal disharmony, religious chauvinism and secessionist movements are all nourished on poverty and the lack of opportunity which goes with economic stagnation. India's secular and democratic health depends, to a great extent, on Dr Singh's economic management. It depends, also, on the statesman in Mr Rao.

FOUR COLLY BIRDS

olly" birds are familiar as blackbirds, ur-and-twenty of whom were able, dmirably, to sing in spite of serving as lling for a king's pie. Blackbirds are doubtable, and one of their tribe avenged is attempt on their life and dignity by evering the nose of the maid in the garden. aturally, it was the king who should have st his, but the rhyme is faithful to its time, hen villeins paid the price for the capers of heir overlords. "The wringing of the nose ringeth forth blood", and much blood was hed in feudal times, although seldom by lackbirds.

Does the "colly", or any other bird, make a uitable gift for a true love on the fourth of ur Twelve Days of Christmas? The answer no. Blinded by the exotic and the finely-eathered, buyers dabble in a dangerous esthetic game which can lead to the xtinction of rare species. The smuggling of xotic fauna is, after arms and narcotics, the ontraband trade most widely practised. lyacinth macaws, Moluccan cockatoos and frican Grey parrots are but three of many rds in danger. Rare birds are usually ndigenous to poor countries, where onservation laws are lax or non-existent, nd are a valuable source of income. Demand sets off a chain reaction of catchers, iddlemen and smugglers.

In 1973, states concluded the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), to regulate trade in imperilled fauna and flora. Today 120 states are parties to the treaty. It bans trade in a category of nearly 8,000 highly threatened species and controls it in a further 30,000. The advent of the single market within the European Union, however, is likely to raise new problems for Britain. With the effective removal of internal customs barriers, endangered species smuggled into other European Union states, particularly those of the Mediterranean, could find their way into Britain. Furthermore, several hundred species not protected by CITES, but whose importation is prohibited under British law, could now be brought into the country.

Mercifully, the blackbird, or *Turdus merula*, far from being endangered, is one of Britain's most ubiquitous birds. A gift to one's true love would not require furtive activity, involving sordid crates and cross-border transactions, in breach of CITES. But why give anyone a blackbird? It is neither brightly plumed, nor particularly inventive. One could not even teach it to say "Mind the gap!". Its charms are simple, and best enjoyed outdoors. In doing so, one subscribes also to a wider principle: birds are best when left at liberty. "There never was fair prison, nor fair cage, For bird or beast, for man or sage."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Fear of attack on South Korea

From Mr Alan Lee Williams and Professor Geoffrey Lee Williams

Sir, Next year must become the year of Nato. The political and military rationale of this unique alliance must continue to be central to the United States involvement in the security of Europe as well as the extension of security reassurance to the countries of central and eastern Europe which only Nato can provide. But what military commitments can Nato-Europe give the United States, which will conceivably face a challenge from North Korea?

As your leading article of December 27 rightly argues, President Kim Il Sung's rogue regime could well invade South Korea, once it has acquired a nuclear capability, since it is pledged to unify the Koreas by 1995 to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Kim regime.

The United States has forces deployed alongside those of the South Korean army which could be overwhelmed in a massive surprise attack before American air power could be brought into play to restore the tactical initiative to the defenders. The background presence of nuclear weapons — presumably available to both sides — adds a menacing dimension to any aggressive move made by Kim Il Sung's seemingly unhinged regime.

Can we therefore suggest that the Nato summit meeting in January addresses the wider strategic questions raised by the impending crisis? How best to deter an attack on South Korea and what to do if deterrence fails are complex issues, given the current state of international politics, with its emphasis on the need for low-intensity peacekeeping operations which eschews the risks of getting involved in high-intensity operations such as Operation Desert Storm.

Yet Nato is palpably better prepared for high-intensity operations — and rather better at coping with them — than it is in responding to the requirements of peacekeeping as defined by the UN Security Council. Thus Nato should be prepared to participate in a military coalition against Pyongyang if it initiates an attack on South Korea.

We believe that a robust statement to this effect would transparently help strengthen those in Pyongyang who are possibly more susceptible to reason, as well as reminding Peking that it too has responsibilities for the maintenance of peace in the area by virtue of its permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

To demonstrate strong solidarity with the United States — as was the case during the Korean war itself — Nato's rapid reaction force, under British tactical command, should be made available to fight alongside United States and South Korean forces in the event of a massive land invasion of South Korea. Nato's willingness to help America in Korea could reinforce the logic of America's willingness to underpin the defence of Europe should it too be threatened by whatever appalling manifestation might emerge from the corpse of the former Soviet Union.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN LEE WILLIAMS
(Director),
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS
(Senior Research Fellow),
The Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom,
154 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1.
December 27.

Penalty point

From Mr Askold Krushelnycky

Sir, It surprises me that police officers are willing to risk danger and occasionally their lives when, as it seems from your report (December 21), a detective can be jailed for attempting to perform his duty.

You report that Robert Wallington was given a nine-month sentence for dangerous driving because two men speeding on a stolen police motor cycle died after he moved his car across their path. Three nights of rioting followed on a Bristol housing estate.

I am sure that with enough understanding, compassion and public funding these two men could have been transformed into valuable members of society. But if they had injured or killed someone by their speeding would there have been three days of rioting by people complaining that the police had failed to apprehend them?

Yours sincerely,
ASKOLD KRUSHELNYCKY,
112 Brondesbury Villas, NW6.

Scottish art tussle

From Mr David Gilmour

Sir, The recent decision to award the new National Gallery of Scottish Art to Glasgow raises questions that the trustees of the National Galleries of Scotland have failed to answer. What, they should explain, is the logic of establishing a national gallery of national art *outside* the national capital?

Is Scottish art so provincial that it needs to be seen in a special gallery where no one will be able to make comparisons with English and international painters?

Is it so embarrassing to see a Ramsay beside a Gainsborough that 99 per cent of the Scottish paintings belonging to Edinburgh's three national galleries have to be removed to Glasgow? The trustees claim that many more people will visit a gallery in Glasgow than in Edinburgh because the existing museum at Kelvingrove receives more visitors than the national galleries in the capital. But the comparison is so misleading as to be meaningless.

As anyone who goes to Kelvingrove can see, a large number of its visitors congregate in the rooms displaying armour and stuffed animals, and do not look at the pictures upstairs. There is no evidence whatever that they will flock to the new gallery.

The argument that Edinburgh lacks sufficient space is equally fallacious. The national galleries have plenty of room to expand on their existing sites and could do so for considerably less than the £25-30 million estimated cost of the Glasgow gallery at Kelvingrove.

As a result of this unnecessary and incomprehensible upheaval, Edinburgh will lose one of its best-loved institutions, the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, housed in its splendid neo-Gothic sandstone building in Queen Street.

Its entire collection of paintings together with its unique and invaluable archives, built up over a century largely by people from the city and near by, will be lost to Glasgow.

But what Edinburgh has done to deserve such treatment remains unexplained.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GILMOUR,
21 Moray Place,
Edinburgh 13.
December 22.

Aims of national vocational courses

From the Director-General of the City and Guilds of London Institute

Sir, Both Margot Norman's article of December 15, "Cuckoo-land courses", and the report on vocational education and training by Professor Alan Smithers upon which it is based miss a fundamental point. The acquisition of competence, upon which national vocational qualifications (NVQs) are based, does include knowledge and understanding as well as skill.

UK Limited needs a pool of people who "can do", with all that entails, including the related theory. What we do not want is a workforce that knows "why" but cannot apply the knowledge to achieve anything useful: a plumber who knows the rules of thermodynamics but cannot install a bath would not be considered competent here or in Germany.

Far from regarding the assessment procedures as "claptrap", we have consistently and publicly endorsed the establishment of the new framework and the philosophy that underpins it. We are concerned about the cost, but we are working with the National Council for Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ) and others to find ways of reducing it, since we believe it would be a tragedy for the system to fail because it was not affordable.

Yours faithfully,
N. A. D. CAREY,
Director-General,
City and Guilds of London Institute,
76 Portland Place, W1.

From Eur. Ing. W. Mervyn Thomas

Sir, Whereas industry used to be able to depend on a day-release course, sorting out those students with ability or who were prepared to study to master an understanding of their chosen discipline, it is now hindered with a course which everyone passes, and passes without an examination grade.

Britain has a system of vocational education in which school-leavers who have done virtually no work take the same course as, say, a student with ten GCSEs, and both can end up with an identical vocational qualification. When they apply for a job, industry has no idea which of the two is most competent.

Some time ago two young men were re-wiring my next-door neighbour's home. One said to me: "I took the old City and Guilds, but my friend here took the new give-away modular National Certificate." He laughed and added: "No one is allowed to fail or the lecturer will get sacked."

The remark summarises what Professor Alan Smithers means when he says the new system of vocational education is "a disaster of epic proportions".

Yours truly,
MERVYN THOMAS
(Head of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Stevenson College of Further Education, Edinburgh, 1976-85),
26 Learmonth Terrace, Edinburgh 4.

From Dr David Brancher

Sir, Margot Norman's article provides a sad example of what happens when a culture tries to change itself. When we use "academic" and "vocational" to express a contrast in schools we show a level of ignorance which is disastrous.

An engineer does not build a dozen bridges to see which kind tends to stand up. At another level, an electrician does not learn to wire a circuit by trial and error, and then expect to wire everything the same way for the rest of his life.

At all levels, people require a set of predictive mental models with which to understand what they are doing, and to forecast the outcome. The German word for this academic and intellectual content — *Technik* — has no exact counterpart in English. What we do have is a culture which sees "academic" as meaning clever and therefore defining what should be avoided in vocational education.

A good electrician or a good heating fitter, like a surgeon or an engineer, needs a certain foundation of fundamental knowledge, not on top of skill but as part of it.

If we are not careful the schools will learn to keep bright youngsters away from the new courses; the less able students will establish a low standard within them, and the students who could have acquired the *Technik* will be bored. We shall then have the General NVQs we deserve.

Yours etc,
DAVID BRANCHER,
The Partnership Trust,
Royal Society of Arts,
8 John Adam Street, WC2.

From Mr R. A. Larcombe

Sir, Ms Norman states: "The underlying philosophy [of NVQs] is that if you can do something ... then you have demonstrated that you know and understand all that is necessary for the task." This is untrue.

The criterion of the National Council for Vocational Qualifications is clear:

Where performance evidence alone is limited and does not permit the reliable inference of the possession of necessary knowledge and understanding, this must be assessed separately.

Hundreds of thousands of wealth-creators are working to ensure that NVQs raise the UK economy to world class; journalism of this sort hinders their efforts.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LARCOMBE
(Development Director),
Construction Industry Standing Conference,
The Building Centre,
26 Store Street, WC1.

From Mr Robin Ebers

Sir, Although the Government is busily funding the development of NVQs it is also withdrawing funding for established courses, such as this institute's professional qualification in international trade, taught in some 50 colleges throughout the UK.

Now Manchester University has given warning that standards will be lowered by using NVQs without the adequate provision of training. We are worried that courses that are successfully training future export managers and are widely recognised by industry will not be funded in future.

Yours sincerely,
ROBIN EBERS
(Director of Education and Training),
The Institute of Export,
Export House,
64 Clifton Street, EC2.

Right to silence

From Mr Roy Amlot, QC

Sir, The Home Secretary proposes to permit the courts to draw inference from a suspect's failure to answer police questions or from a refusal to give evidence in court (report, December 18). Despite many years, in the past, of prosecuting as Treasury counsel, I believe that such a move to emasculate the right to silence is clumsy and unenlightened.

The right to silence for a suspect on the street or in a police station sits alongside the right of a defendant not to give evidence at his trial. Both of them are underpinned by the burden of proof in criminal cases, which remains at all times upon the prosecution. The right to silence should remain absolute. It has the important time-honoured advantage that a suspect, whether innocent or guilty, knows exactly where he stands.

The present caution is clear and not open to misconstruction. What is the citizen and non-lawyer to make of the new caution which, according to your report, is now proposed: "You are not obliged to answer questions. But if you do not mention now something which you later use in your defence the court may decide that your failure to mention it now strengthens the case against you."

That is gobbledegook. A police station is a frightening place for most suspects. The police have enough power and authority as it is. A few hours locked in a police cell can be enough to demoralise many people.

It is imperative that everyone knows precisely what the law is. Forcing people to grapple with the imponderables this new caution would bring would be a retrograde step for criminal justice.

And if the right to silence were to be diluted in this way, what would happen to the right of a defendant to remain silent in court? This would become the reformer's next target. Indeed it would not be easy for a jury to understand that although there was no effective right to silence in the police station, there was such a right in court when the case came to trial.

I believe that once we reach that stage the burden of proof will surely start to shift. What enlightened person wishes that result?

Yours faithfully,
ROY AMLOT,
6 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4.
December 20.

Ghost of Kafka in modern dress

From the Headmaster of Taunton School

Sir, I had not really been following the periodic discussions in your paper about the proceedings of the Child Support Agency. Recently, however, I received a communication from them that made the reason for the difficulties clear: the ghost of Kafka stalks the agency corridors.

Through the post, in an official (recycled) brown envelope, came a form with a confidential request for information about an employee (whom in fact we have never had), inviting me, if I so wished, to ring an extension number, but giving no telephone number by which I could make the initial contact.

As it said "Social Security" on a small logo at the bottom of the letter I rang the local office, who told me that they had no such extension. When I said the form also carried the letters "CSA" I was told I could be put in touch.

Trying to be co-operative, I suggested to the CSA official who then replied that as the letter invited me to ring an extension it would be helpful if it also carried a telephone number. I was told that that was not possible, in the interest of confidentiality.

As I had no information and the official declined to explain further, I was simply asked to send the form back saying that I did not know the person.

Since the form carried no address, I asked where I should send it. I was told that was confidential too, but I would be sent a reply-paid envelope by return, and it promptly arrived. I had to restrain myself from looking at the address!

Yours faithfully,
BARRY SUTTON,
Headmaster,
Taunton School,
Taunton, Somerset TA2 6AD.
December 23.

Aerospace and Gatt

From the Chairman of the European Aerospace Industry Council

Sir, Your readers may like to be made aware that in one very important respect, namely aerospace, neither Europe nor its strategic industries nor consumers will benefit from the Gatt agreement (reports, December 16).

European manufacturers of airframes, engines and equipment will continue to face American competitors who have effectively unlimited access to indirect government support through huge Nasa budgets. Meanwhile, European access even to direct repayable government loans will remain limited.

We are grateful to the European Commission and our governments for their efforts to redress this imbalance but if we are all to benefit from free trade the Gatt arrangements will have to cease protecting the strongest producer and our governments must achieve a much better deal during the extended negotiations next year.

Your correspondent in Geneva referred to competitive Brazilian exports. It should be pointed out that Brazilian aircraft enjoy heavily subsidised export credits.

Yours faithfully,
SYD GILLIBRAND,
Chairman, European Aerospace Industry Council,
c/o AECMA, Avenue Mommaerts 10, Evere, B-1140 Brussels.

House of Savoy

From Mr Peter Callaghan

Sir, Donald Foreman of the Monarchist League is rewriting Italian history (letter, December 14). Mussolini did not come to power through "the will of the people". Victor Emmanuel III appointed him as Prime Minister in October 1922, and allowed him to govern unchallenged for over twenty years. The Italian people delivered their own verdict on the record of the Italian monarchy in June 1946: they voted by referendum to establish a republic.

There have been outstanding rulers of many countries whose reigns have enhanced the idea of monarchy: none of them has come from the House of Savoy.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CALLAGHAN,
2 Alderwood Avenue,
Stockport, Cheshire.

What a cracker

From Mrs Hazel Bell

Sir, You wrongly deprecate the distributors of Christmas crackers (report, December 23). My family enjoyed much merriment one year from a box of a dozen. Eight of these contained the same joke: what are hippies for? To keep your leggies up.

The first instance of this provoked little amusement, but the eighth, suggesting an earnest determination by the providers that the dimmest recipient should appreciate the subtlety of the *bon mot*, convulsed us.

Yours faithfully,
HAZEL BELL,
139 The Ryde,
Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Business letters, page 30

... number of rabbit keepers who are not ... present opportunity to introduce even more listeners to these particular recreations.

SOCIAL NEWS

Birthdays today

June Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, 80; Sir Richard Beaumont, diplomat, 81; Lord Beaverbrook, 42; Sir Samuel Brittan, journalist, 60; Mr John Connell, former chairman, Distillers Company, 69; Mr Bernard Cribbins, actor, 65; Mr Ted Danson, actor, 46; Miss Ann Demeulemeester, fashion designer, 34; Baroness Denton of Wakefield, 58; General Sir Robert Ford, 70; Mr Andrew Foster, controller, Audit Commission for Local Authorities in England and Wales, 49; Professor L.C.B. Gower, professor of law, 80; Mr David Hall, former chief constable, Humberside, 63; Sir Simon Hornby, chairman, W.H. Smith, 59; Mr Gilbert Hunt, company chairman, 79; Mr Martin Offiah, rugby league player, 27; Mrs Rosalind Preston, former president, National Council of Women of Great Britain, 58; the Right Rev Mark Santer, Bishop of Birmingham, 57; Sir Kenneth Sharp, accountant, 67; Mr Harvey Smith, showjumper, 55; Miss Mary Tyler Moore, actress, 56; Mr Jon Voight, actor, 55; Sir Edward Williams, former commissioner-general, Expo 88, Brisbane, 72.

Forthcoming marriage

Mr T.G. Bevan-Thomas and Miss R.J. Ryeland

The engagement is announced between Tim, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Bevan-Thomas, of Chichester, West Sussex, and Rachel, daughter of Mrs Ann Deveson and the late Mr Roger Ryeland, of St Margaret's Bay, Kent.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Charles Macintosh, pioneer of water-proofing, Glasgow, 1766; Andrew Johnson, 17th American President 1865-69, Raleigh, North California, 1808; William Ewart Gladstone, Prime Minister 1868-74, 1880-85, 1886 and 1892-94, Liverpool, 1809; Pablo Casals, cellist, Vendrelli, Spain, 1876.

DEATHS: Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury 1162-70, murdered in Canterbury cathedral, 1170; Thomas Sydenham, physician, London, 1689; Brook Taylor, mathematician, London, 1731; Jacques-Louis David, painter, Brussels, 1825; Charles Lamb, essayist, Edmonton, Middlesex, 1834; Christina Rossetti, poet, London, 1894; Sir William Osler, physician, Oxford, 1919; Rainer Maria Rilke, poet, Valmont, Switzerland, 1926; Eden Phillpotts, novelist, Broad Clyst, near Exeter, 1960; Paul Whiteman, bandleader, Doylestown, Pennsylvania, 1967; Maurice Harold Macmillan, 1st Earl of Stockton, Prime Minister 1957-63, Sussex, 1986.

Radio Luxembourg began broadcasting, 1930.

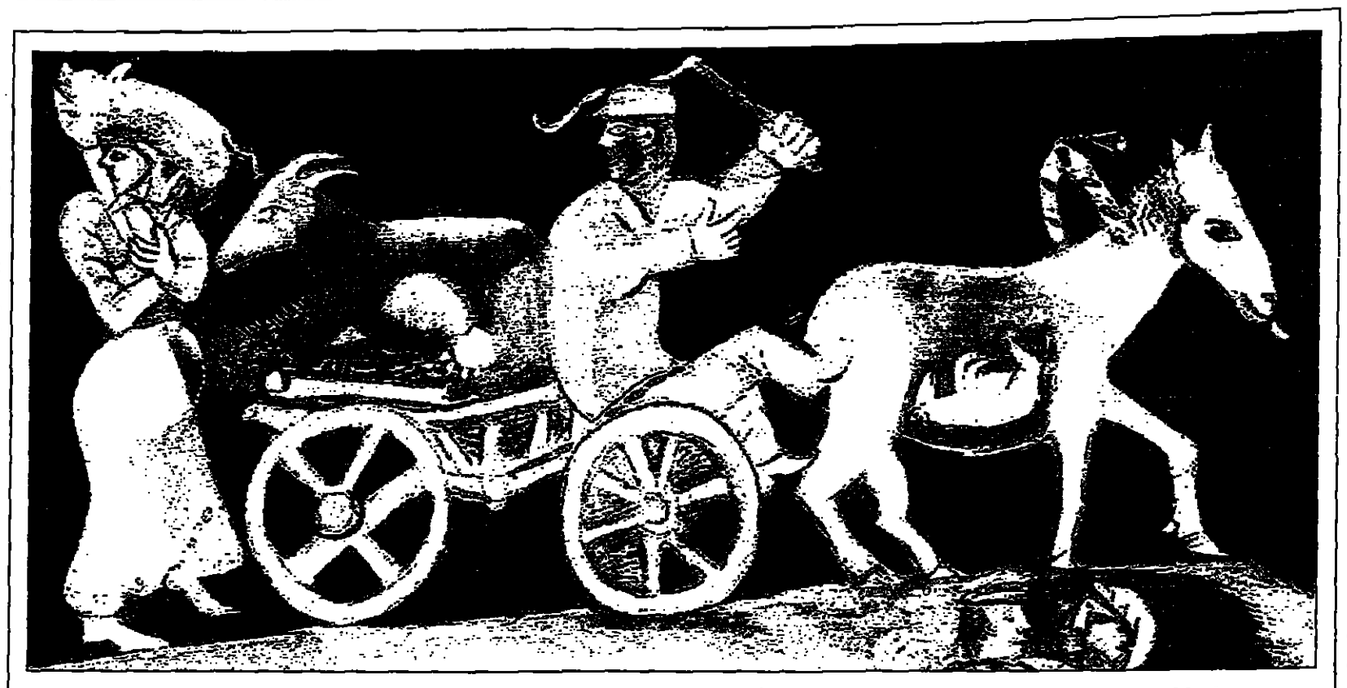
The Irish Republic changed its name to Eire as the new constitution was implemented, 1937.

German aircraft dropped 10,000 bombs on London, 1940.

First transistor hearing aid went on sale in America, 1951.

A coelacanth, a prehistoric fish believed to be extinct, was caught off the coast of South Africa, 1952.

The Hon Mary Morrison has succeeded the Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.



A 1912 watercolour by Marc Chagall which is at the centre of a dispute between the Guggenheim Museum in New York, which says it was stolen 25 years ago and is demanding its return, and a collector who bought the canvas from a reputable dealer. The court case on whether Rachel Lubell, a widow in her 70s, has to return the piece has begun in Manhattan. She and her husband bought the 6in x 12in work, known as "Menageries" or "Le Marchand de Bestiaux" (The Cattle Dealer) in 1967 for $17,000 (£11,300) from the gallery of Robert Elkon. Mrs Lubell says she was unaware the painting, estimated to be worth $600,000 (£400,000), was stolen. According to an invoice she received, the Chagall once belonged to George A Frankiel who allegedly worked in the museum's mail room. The museum said it did not report the theft until 1970 because it hoped the work would resurface. Mrs Lubell said it should have reported the theft, which might have prevented the sale.

Rice chaff helps date Thailand metal find

BY NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

TINY fragments of rice chaff have helped to date the emergence of a metal-using society in Thailand over 3,000 years ago. The chaff, mixed into potters' clay as a tempering material, has been radiocarbon-dated at Oxford to 1300-800BC.

The problem arose when Professor Charles Higham, of Otago University in New Zealand, excavated a prehistoric cemetery at Nong Nor in the Bang Pakong valley of central Thailand. More than 100 burials were found, many with grave goods of copper, bronze or tin.

There was little good dating evidence, although one carbon sample suggested a date of around 900BC. Professor Higham realised, however, that the pottery vessels in the graves were made with chaff tempering, and that this might be datable using the Oxford radiocarbon accelerator, which can date samples as small as a grape pip.

Enough chaff was extracted from five pots to provide dates of 1300-800BC which, Professor High said, "support a growing body of evidence that central Thailand was the focus of a probably indigenous copper and bronze industry from about 1500BC onwards".

The spectacular Shang bronze age of northern China, dating to 1800-1100BC, has long been seen as the only source of such technical innovation in eastern Asia. There are now, however, a growing number of finds and dates from Vietnam and Thailand which suggest that developments were equally early, and independent, far to the south.

Source: Archaeometry 35: 323

Community spirit conquers despair

BY JOHN YOUNG

SOME 25 years ago Runcorn Development Corporation, in Cheshire, commissioned the distinguished architect, the late Sir James Stirling, to design a housing development intended as a prestigious ornament to the then burgeoning new town. It proved to be an unmitigated disaster.

Within three years of completion in 1977, the Southgate estate was classified as "hard to let". The concrete blocks with 1,100 deck access flats and maisonettes symbolised the worst aspects of system-built public housing.

By 1983 one of the blocks had been boarded up. Almost a third of the estate was empty, graffiti and vandalism were widespread and the crime rate high. In 1985, out of 207 areas in the county, it ranked first in indicators of social stress, such as teenage pregnancy, truancy, child abuse and unemployment. When metering was introduced in 1987 to meet the cost of expensive oil-fired heating system, many tenants were unable to meet their bills, and the condensation affected the fabric of the buildings.

That year a group of housing associations, led by Merseyside Improved Houses (MIH), was appointed to tackle the problems. Association officials were impressed by the community spirit of the residents, who were living in appalling conditions.

However, plans to replace the blocks with terraced housing were frustrated by a government decision in January 1989 to demolish the estate and not redevelop in the foreseeable future. Faced with the break-up of their community, the tenants lobbied vigorously. Six months later the environment department agreed to provide funds to MIH to redevelop half the estate at a cost of £14 million.

After "decanting" tenants into temporary accommodation, 240 families and single people were rehoused in a pleasant, landscaped estate of brick houses, bungalows and flats with gardens, renamed Hallwood Park. A further 68 homes have since been completed. In the two years since the first families moved into Hallwood Park there has been just one recorded crime, a burglary.

Southgate to Hallwood Park - the transformation has been short-listed for the 1993 Community Enterprise Awards, sponsored by *The Times* and Business in the Community. The winners will be announced on January 17.

University news

Oxford

Brasenose College
Elections to Scholarships and Exhibitions

In Biochemistry
To an Open Scholarship: **Peter Michael Haggie**, formerly of Hoo Upper Comprehensive, Commoner of the College

In Chemistry
To an Open Scholarship: **Matthew James Bidwell**, formerly of St Paul's School, London, Commoner of the College

In Engineering, Economics & Management
To an Open Exhibition: **Aris Bilkos**, formerly of Athens College, Commoner of the College; **Philippos Kassimatis**, formerly of Athens College, Commoner of the College; **Dipesh Shrestha**, formerly of Budhanilkantha School, Commoner of the College

In English
To an Open Scholarship: **Gideon Michael Lester**, formerly of Westminster School, Commoner of the College; **David Ian Szalay**, formerly of Stowe School, Commoner of the College

In History
To an Open Scholarship: **Paul Michael Stanistreet**, formerly of Monmouth School, Commoner of the College
To an Open Exhibition:
Simon Todd, formerly of Grange School, Cheshire, Commoner of the College

In Law
To an Open Scholarship: **Kevin Feolan O'Sullivan**, formerly of The John Lyon School, Commoner of the College
To an Open Exhibition: **Karlos Seeger**, formerly of the German School, Surrey, Commoner of the College; **Andrew David Wright**, formerly of Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Darlington, Commoner of the College

In Literae Humaniores
To an Open Scholarship: **Kieran Patrick O'Connor**, formerly of St Bede's College, Commoner of the College; **Ian James MacLachlan**, formerly of Tiffin School, Surrey, Commoner of the College.
To an Open Exhibition: **Tristan Charles J Elbrick**, formerly of Eton College, Commoner of the College.

In PPE
To an Open Scholarship: **Douglas Stuart Scott**, formerly of Ipswich School, Exhibitioner of the College; **Timothy Douglas Hartford**, formerly of Aylesbury Grammar School, Commoner of the College.
To an Open Exhibition: **Katherine Sarah Ball**, formerly of Cranleigh School, Commoner of the College; **John Meredith Tudor**, formerly of Capetown University, Rhodes Scholar and Commissioner of the College.

In Physics
To an Open Scholarship: **Walter Timothy Lynsdale**, formerly of Brighton College, Commoner of the College.
To an Open Exhibition: **Simon Philip Dewberry**, formerly of Bishop's Stortford College, Commoner of the College.

Manchester

Brian Berensson, Professor of Law at the European University Institute, Florence, to be Professor of Law.
Alexander Robertson, Professor of Anthropology in the University of California, Santa Barbara, to be Professor of Social Anthropology.
Richard Phineas Werbner, Reader in African Anthropology, to be Professor of African Anthropology in the Department of Social Anthropology.
Judith Elizabeth Adams, Senior Lecturer in Diagnostic Radiology, to be Professor of Diagnostic Radiology.
Valerie A Karn, Professor of Environmental Health and Housing in the University of Salford, to be Professor of Housing Studies in the Department of Social Policy and Social Work from April 1 1994.
Terence Vincent Callaghan to be granted the title of Professor of Arctic Biology from the date he takes up his appointment as Director of the Centre for Arctic Biology in the School of Biological Sciences. Dr Callaghan is Senior Principal Scientific Officer with the Natural Environment Research Council's Institute of Terrestrial Ecology.
Dr D J Sandoz, Managing Director of Predictive Control Ltd, to be Honorary Visiting Professor of Engineering.
Tristram Paul Besterman, City Curator, Plymouth City Museums and Art Gallery, to be Director of the Manchester Museum, from January 1, 1994.

Appointments:
Reader in Accounting and Finance, **K H Williams**
Senior Lecturer in Diagnostic Radiology, **Alan Jackson**
Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry, **R K Morriss**
Lecturer in Ancient History in the Department of History, **Mary Beagon**
Lecturers in Planning and Landscape **P J P Bell, J M Howe, Yin L C Wong**
Lecturer in Comparative Religion in the Department of Religions and Theology, **Jacqueline G S Hirst**
Lecturer in Christian Thought in the Department of Religions and Theology, **D R Law**
Lecturer in Managerial Finance in the Manchester Business School and in the Faculty of Business Administration, **D P Newton**
Lecturer in Marketing of Financial Services in the Manchester Business School and in the Faculty of Business Administration, **J S Worthington**
Lecturer in European Politics in the Department of Government, **I M Holliday**
Lecturer in Sociology, **Nikos Papastergiadis**
Lecturer in Applied Philosophy in the Department of Educational Studies, **C A Erin**
Lecturer in Leisure Management in the Department of Educational Studies, **R M Jones**
Lecturer in the Education of the Deaf in the Department of Educational Studies, **Wendy M McCracken**
Lecturer in Law, **Marie B Fox**
Lecturer in Anaesthesia, **Agnieszka Devine**
Lecturer in Health Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry and of Nursing, **Jennifer L Devlen**
Lecturer in General Practice, **Carole B T Slack**
Lecturer in the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, **J A Hughes**
Lecturer in Computer-Aided Engineering in the Department of Engineering, **Azam Moghaddasi-Tafreshi**
Administrative Assistant in the Finance Department, **Roxanne Bretherton**
Administrative Assistant in the Registrar's Department, **Sara E Longshaw**

Grants
Recent grants to the university include:
A&RC
The relationships between vitamin D status and inflammatory cytokines in patients with arthritis, **Dr E B Mawer, Dr M E Hayes and Dr A J Freemont**, £77,080.
Cancer Research Campaign
Education and Child Studies Research Group, **Dr A Charlton**, £237,035.
E.S.R.C.
Stranger-Danger: Parental fears and restrictions on childrens' use of space, **Dr G Valentine**, £71,500.
Archives of the British Communist Party, **Professor D Howell**, £30,880.
Leukaemia Research Fund
Molecular epidemiological studies of Hodgkins lymphoma in young adults, **Dr G M Taylor**, £35,068
Leverhulme Trust
The cultural identity of Chinese adolescents in Britain, **Professor G K Verma**, £58,160
A study of primary schools with all pupils from south Asian backgrounds, **Professor G K Verma**, £26,290
MRC
A study of molecular mechanisms underlying GABAA receptor desensitisation in mammalian CNS neutronal cells, **Dr D R Bristow**, £143,016
Short term memory mechanisms for processing verbal sequences, **Dr J L Shapiro**, £118,896
An investigation of the role of 5-hydroxytryptamine in impulsive behaviour, **Dr C M Bradshaw**, £96,240
M R C Environmental Epidemiology Unit
Occupational activity and hip osteoarthritis, **Dr P Croft**, £35,343
Mental Health Foundation
Evaluation of project to direct mentally disordered offenders from custody, **Dr M Chatterton**, £30,000
N E R C
The Specific and predictable effects of relative sea level change on sediment geochemistry and mineralogy at stratal surfaces, **Dr R L Gawthorpe and Professor C D Curtis**, £109,979
Parkinson Disease Society of the UK
The potential of kappa opioid agonists as a symptomatic treatment for Parkinson's disease, **Dr J M Brotchie and Professor A R Crossman**, £46,965.
Salford Health Authority
The place of bone marrow cryopreservation, purging and manipulation for leukaemia, lymphomas and other paediatric solid tumours, **Dr R F Stevens**, £94,490.
S E R C
Teaching Company Programme between University/VAMP, **Dr A L Rector, Miss C A Goble and Mr S Kay**, £270,934.
Synthesis of novel polymeric materials, **Professor P Hodge**, £265,166.
Parallel temporal theorem proving, **Professor J R Gurd**, £230,969.
Modelling of marine drag anchors (FPS 91), **Dr W H Craig**, £164,286.
Process engineering framework, **Professor B C Warboys**, £159,987.
Modelling of compaction ground anchorages in sand, **Dr C M Merrifield and Dr W H Craig**, £140,453.
University of Cambridge
Economic analysis of the impact of YT on the UK youth labour market, **Dr M Andrews**, £35,120.
Wellcome Trust
The biochemistry of matrix in normal and diseased connective tissue, **Professor M E Grant**, £481,280.
Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, **Dr J V Pickstone**, £191,898
Predicting tissue exposure in pharmacology and toxicology, **Professor M Rowland**, £160,332
Expression of novel mediators of brain damage, **Dr N J Rothwell and Dr C A Davies**, £152,602
Hippocampal neural circuitry in schizophrenia, **Professor J F W Deakin**, £124,209.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev James Blackman, Curate, St Wilfrid and St Luke, Harrogate: to be Vicar, Leyburn w Bellerby (Ripon).
The Rt Rev Michael Bourke, Bishop of Wolverhampton (Lichfield): to be *also* an Honorary Canon of Lichfield Cathedral.
The Rev Canon Michael Cooper, Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral, w permission to officiate in Ospringe deanery: to be Honorary Chaplain to the Bishop of Dover (Canterbury).
The Rev Dr Peter Crick, Priest-in-charge, Coniscliffe, and Bishop of Durham's Adviser in Continuing Ministerial Education: to be *also* an Honorary Canon of Durham Cathedral.
The Rev Kenneth Dixon, Vicar, Cardington: to be Rector, Clifton, and Priest-in-charge, Southill (St Albans).
The Rev Carol Edwards, Deacon, St Christopher, Brislington: to be *also* an Honorary Canon of Bristol Cathedral.
The Rev Keith Gale, Rector and Archdeacon of Lilongwe (Lake Malawi): to be Vicar, Sampford Peverell Team Ministry (Exeter).
The Rev Brian Hails, Chaplain in Sunderland of, and former Team Convenor to the Northumbrian Industrial Mission: to be *also* an Honorary Canon of Durham Cathedral.
The Rev Desmond Kelly, Assistant Curate, Braintree, St Michael: to be Priest-in-charge, Castle Hedingham and Sible Heddingham (Chelmsford).
The Rev Christine Latham, Parish Deacon, St Peter and St Paul, Battersea: to be Parish Deacon, Christ Church, Blackfriars (Southwark).
The Rev David Lloyd, Curate, North Dulwich, St Faith (Southwark): to be Vicar, Bedminster Team Ministry (Bristol).
The Rev Charmion Mann, Chaplain, Bristol Children's, General and Maternity Hospitals: to be *also* an Honorary Canon of Bristol Cathedral.
The Rev John Mantle, Assistant Priest, Boxley w Detling and Vice-Principal, Canterbury School of Ministry (Canterbury): to be MSE Lecturer at the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen.

Redundant Churches Fund
Mr Frederick Burrett, CB, FSA: to be re-appointed Chairman of the Redundant Churches Fund on the expiry of his term of office.

Appointment
Dr Althea Pearson: to be Bishop's Diocesan Adviser for Counselling (Canterbury).

Art dealer gets award for discovery

BY JOHN SHAW

AN ART dealer has been awarded the Crowley Colossus Leonardo Prize for the most important new find, rediscovery or reattribution of an Italian work of art.

The prize, which was won by Clovis Whitfield, from London, is organised by the Accademia Italiana in Kensington, west London.

His entry was a painting of four heads attributed to the circle of Giovanni Serodine when it appeared at auction in London in 1988. It has now been identified as the much more valuable study for Giovanni Lanfranco's Navicella altar piece in St Peter's, Rome.

Only fragments of the original fresco survived and the Vatican Museums have expressed an interest in acquiring the work if they can find a sponsor to finance the purchase.

TRADE: 071 481 1982
PRIVATE: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313
FAX: 071 782 7828

Peter began: 'I now understand how true it is that God has no favourites, but that in every nation those who are god-fearing and do what is right are acceptable to him.' Acts of the Apostles 10:34 (REB)

BIRTHS

BAINBRIDGE - On 24th December, to Katherine (née Godber) and Guy, a son, Oliver Geoffrey Tarn.
FIDDIAN--GREEN - On 28th December 1993, to Henrietta (née Hutley) and Nicolas a son.
PRINGLE - On 20th December to Deborah (née Rodriguez) and Andrew, a daughter Caroline Mercedes.

DEATHS

AGATE - On December 21st 1993, Major John Patrick Barclay of Milton Lilbourne, Wiltshire, aged 65 years. Private cremation followed by a Memorial Service on January 4th at 2 pm at St Peter's Church, Milton Lilbourne. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for the Life-Anew Trust c/o F Dewey (Funeral Directors), 26 River Street, Pewsey, Wilts, SN9 5DH. (0672-63440).
COAD - On Christmas day 1993, Philip Ross Robertson MC aged 88, at home. Beloved husband of Mary, loved father and dear grandfather. Funeral service at Chelsea Old Church on Friday 31st December 1993 at 12:30 pm. No flowers, but any donations to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund. Memorial service to be announced later.
ESTORICK - Eric, author and art dealer, at home on Christmas day in London aged 80. Much loved father, grandfather and friend. Cremation Golders Green, Thursday December 30th. For the time, call M.M. Broad and Son 081 441 6047.

DEATHS

GROUSE - Leonard "Leo" David B.Sc. (Econ), A.T.I.I., F.P.M.I. On 22nd December suddenly and completely unexpectedly aged 63 at his office. Deeply loved husband of Jeannette, adored and adoring father and grandfather of David and Sharon, and Joe. Lily and Sonny. We miss him. Funeral at 1:30 on Thursday 6th January at Randall's Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, Surrey. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to TOFS. All enquiries to Doves Funerals, 112 St. Johns Hill, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3PB. (0732) 740444.
HOWARD - On 23rd December, peacefully in hospital, George Sigmund Alexander aged 82 years, beloved husband of Joan. Funeral Service at 11 am on Friday 31st December at the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Luxborough, Somerset. Donations to Imperial Cancer Research c/o Hawkes Funeral Directors, Irnham Road, Minehead, Somerset.
KNOWLES - On 21st December, suddenly at home, James Metcalfe, aged 82. Dearly loved best friend of Lorraine, adored and loving father of Tom and Tizzie and lovely grandpa of Ella, Matilda and Barnaby. Funeral Wednesday 5th January at 2 pm, All Saints West Dean near Seaford. No flowers. If desired, donations to P.D.S.A or R.N.L.I. He was a True and gentle Englishman.
LESSER - Frank (Ephraim) died on 23rd December aged 77. A brave fighter who will be sadly missed by his wife Mira, daughters Judith and Miriam, son-in-law John, granddaughters Ilana and Ariela. Cremation at 3 pm on 31st December at the West Chapel, Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane. Family flowers only please. Donations to North London Hospice to whos doctors and staff we extend our warm thanks.

DEATHS

LLOYD--JACOB - On 21st December, peacefully at home, Kathleen Winifred, beloved mother of Jenny, Marny and David. Service at Mickleham Church, 11:30 am Wednesday January 5th. Family flowers only please.
NELSON - Major General Sir John KCVO, CB, DSO, OBE, MC, aged 81, at Argyll Argyle on December 23rd. Private funeral. Thanksgiving service at The Guards Chapel, to be announced later.
RILEY - On 24th December, Estaire Joyce Danielle aged 28, peacefully. Wife of Simon J.B. Riley, daughter of Prof. J.K. DeVree, Netherlands. Enquiries 071 351 0248.
SALTER - Willoughby, on 24th December aged 84 at Mansfield. Father of Stephen and Edmund. Founder and first headmaster of Lochinver House School, Potters Bar. Inquiries to G.A. Townroe and Son 0623 842455.
STOCKILL - John, on 22nd December, tragically. Dearly loved husband of Caroline and father of Mark and Clare. Cremation at Reading 3pm on 31st December. No flowers. Enquiries to Tomalin 0491 573570.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
To Place your advertisement in The Times please call
0374 617843
Between 9.30 -4pm
Where our sales staff will be available to take your call.
Please note prepayment will be required for all advertisements.
All major credit cards are accepted.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

A DANCERS TALE
Once upon a time there was a beautiful young dancer, who desperately wanted to dance. Unfortunately, she had no music and no money. Then her Fairy Godmother appeared, whisking her down to MARKSON PIANOS who stock a vast range of quality pianos, at competitive prices. She even managed to rent her own piano for just £20 per month. Now she just needs a pianist!
MARKSON PIANOS
Est 1910
071 935 8883 (NW1)
081 864 4817 (SE18)
071 381 4132 (SW6)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COURT AND SOCIAL PAGE
Over the New Year period the following deadlines will apply:-
Notices to appear on Thursday 30th December should be received in writing by 12 noon 29th December
Notices for Friday 31st December should be received in writing by 5pm 29th December
Notices for Saturday 1st January should be received in writing by 5pm on 30th December.
Notices to appear on both January 3rd and 4th must be received by 10am 31st December
TEL: 071 782 7347
FAX: 071 481 9313

RENTALS

FIRST CLASS PROPERTY
Spacious/compact. Flat/house. We can help in Belgravia, Hampstead, Kensington, Wimbledon and similar areas.
Phone us now.
Birch & Co
071 734 7432
ARLA MEMBER

AMERICAN/European corporate employees seek quality homes SW1/3/6/7/10 Cobbett & Gawlee 071 589 8481
CHELSEA Lovely sunny Mews house. 2 bed/1 bath. f/furn (new) £260 pw. 071 352 1951.
CHELSEA SW3 luxury balcony apt. Dble bedrm. Extra light recp, WC, porters 071 622 0626
CHELSEA SW3 Lovely 1 bed 2 recep flat. Suit Bank. £300pw Gavin Cowper 071 351 6732
EATON SQUARE (cont. element 1yr) 5 bed fully furn stat. can lend twin bed room + bath + small kit. Yearly let. £270 pw ono. Agents only with definite clients to show. Tel 071 258 9500

TICKETS FOR SALE

TICKETS FOR SALE
When responding to advertisements readers are advised to establish the face value and full details of tickets before entering into any commitment. Most sports tickets are subject to strict re-sale and transfer rules.

ALL AVAIL Sunset, Les Mis, Cats Crazy Phantom Joseph Snopm, Serpent Grease 071 497 1407

UNDER THE CLOCK

AMERICANS SEEK friendship, romance and marriage with British ladies & gentlemen! All ages! English Rose/English Connection (Dept U), Suite 2, 24 Cecil Square, Margate, Kent. 0843-290733. As featured on Wogan, Where There's Life, Kilroy etc..
MUSIC LOVERS Classical Partners for the shared enjoyment of Classical Music. The ideal way to meet your kind of person. Tel: 081 903 0211 (Day) or 0903 885886 (eves & w/ends)
SINGLES Dinner Parties in Yorkshire, Midwinter Introductions. Leeds 0532 704808
THE ULTIMATE in small, made-to-measure marriage bureaux! (S.T.E.) Est. 1960. Katharine Allen, 18 Thayer St, London W1M 5LD. Tel: 071-935 3118

ANNOUNCEMENTS

How near we are to the cure... ...depends on you.
LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH FUND
43 Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JJ 071-405 0181
Voluntary Branches throughout Britain

Kidney Research Saves Lives
Please help with a donation now and a legacy later
NATIONAL KIDNEY RESEARCH
NATIONAL KIDNEY RESEARCH FUND
Dept TT, 42 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RG
Registered Charity No. 258852

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

TRAILFINDERS
LOW COST FLIGHTS WORLDWIDE
and up to 66% discount on hotels & car hire
Around the world from £715
Sydney return from £594
First class hotels from £35 per night
Call Trailfinders for the complete travel service.
Kensington:
(Longhaul) 071 938 3939 (USA & Europe) 071 938 3232
Earls Court:
(Longhaul) 071 938 3366 (USA & Europe) 071 937 6400
Manchester: 061 839 6969 Glasgow: 041 353 2224
Bristol: 0272 299000
ATOL 1458 IATA ABTA 69701

LONG-HAUL TRAVEL SPECIALISTS
ABTA LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED ATOL 2269 OR YOUR MONEY BACK!
CORSAIR TRAVEL
081-514 3388
OPEN 9am to 7pm MON-SAT

ALL DISCOUNTED Economy, Club, F/Class W/wide, Europe, USA, Far East, Australia & many more. Ealing Travel, 081 579 9111. ABTA 77859/IATA. Bonded. Access/Visa.
PORTUGAL. Canaries. All areas. Villas, apts., Hotels. Golf hols, car hire. Discount flights to Europe, Canada, USA, S.Africa and Worldwide. Longmere Intl. 081-686 1101. ABTA 75196

WINTER SPORTS

JAN Chalet bargains. St Anton, Stuben, Zermatt, Les Gets, Les Contamines, St Martin. Ski Total 081-948 6222. ABTA 3980

LONDON

AVAIL. Kensington/Hampstead. Luxury serviced apts. Tel 081 431 3095 Fax 081 455 4422.

WANTED

FINANCIAL DISASTER?
Have you suffered a dramatic change in lifestyle due to bankruptcy, redundancy or financial disaster?
BBC TV seeks families with children over eight to take part in a new series.
Call Family Casebook on
081 752 4620
(24 hr answerphone).

WANTED

HERITAGE
WANTED URGENTLY!
SHOW KITCHENS & BEDROOMS
As part of our marketing programme for the coming year we require a number of homeowners to become showhouses for our top quality furniture. Have a superb kitchen, bedroom, lounge or home-study fitted at a
GREATLY REDUCED COST
All we ask for in return is a letter of recommendation and reserve the right to photograph the installation for use in our new brochure
No callers necessary
CALL 0582 715848
This is a GENUINE OFFER from a manufacturer with over 30 years experience in the furniture industry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAKE A LOT OF CHILDREN HAPPY. MAKE A WILL
The National Children's Bureau is creating and maintaining high standards in children's services, benefiting children all over the country.
But such important work needs money.
By remembering us in your will, you can help us do so much more
Contact Karen England on 071-278 9441 for information.
NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BUREAU
(Charity No. 258825)
8 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7QE

LIVE ~REMEMBER 1993
A fascinating col of mini biograp
The Times LIVES REMEMBE
Please send me... in hardba in paperb
I enclose a cheque for ... made p
Alternatively please debit my Access/Vis
Name
Address
Postcode
Post coupon to:
The Bleasbury Press, Pound House C
Bleasbury Oxon OX11 9PY
Telephone orders: 0235 850110 Fax
All are available from booksell

مكبرة من الأصل

OBITUARIES

DAVE BECK

Dave Beck, leader of the American Teamsters Union, 1952-57, died in Seattle on December 26 aged 99. He was born in Stockton, California, on June 16, 1894.

UNLIKE his fellow president of the Teamsters, the notorious James Hoffa who disappeared in 1975 and is presumed murdered, Dave Beck lived to a ripe old age and died in bed. But, like Hoffa, he served a term as a non-paying guest of the state. In Hoffa's case, the stint behind bars arose from his conviction on charges of jury tampering and misuse of the union's pension funds. Beck was the target of a succession of both state and federal charges between 1957 and 1959, and eventually spent two and a half years in jail for embezzlement and tax evasion.

He remained unrepentant. In the American trade union ethos, where socialist ideological purity cuts little ice, his dealings were, he maintained, perfectly reasonable. "Labour is a business" he once said. Being a millionaire was no crime if the union benefited too.

To be fair to Beck, he undoubtedly was one of the driving forces behind the rise to pre-eminence among American unions of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America, to give the organisation its august official title. And, although he began his working life as a laundry truck driver, he no more resembled the old blue-collar union leaders than he did the more politically-minded, intellectually-sophisticated men who succeeded them. In Washington state, which he made his stamping ground, he was, rather, of the same stamp as that breed of financial empire builders who had once roamed free in that part of the country.

When he was four the Beck family moved to Seattle, where he left school to work in a laundry. An unsuccessful strike of Teamsters members in 1913 made a great impression on him and when the laundry workers struck in 1917 he was active in an action which ended, this time, in victory for the union.

By 1923 he was president of the Teamsters in Washington state. From the start he saw trade union organisation as a business and demonstrated such flair at increasing efficiency and cutting costs that at one point he was actually offered the managership of a combine of laundries in the Seattle area. Much tempted by the offer, he extracted the promise of a senior post with Teamsters International from its leadership, as a reward for not deserting trade unionism for business.

In his rise through the union Beck had no truck with political militancy. As he saw it his role was merely to get as much for his members out of their employers as he could. Labour versus capital was not, to him, a meaningful concept and he looked on the ideologically inspired strikes of the International Workers of the World (the "Wobblies") as pointless. Extraordinarily, the only thing he disapproved of about the free enterprise system was what he saw as its untidiness, and he actually set about trying to establish stable competitive structures in the laundry business.

This, with its implications of price-fixing, did not endear him to Washington's employers and his stock with them fell even lower in 1936 when he infiltrated a newspaper workers' picket line at a strike on the Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* with Teamster truck drivers who roughed up non-striking workers. Newspaper headlines denounced Beck as "Public Goon No 1".

A reputation for rough tactics was reinforced by the ruthlessness with which Beck fought off an attempt by the pro-Communist West Coast longshoremen's union to infiltrate his membership. Internecine battles raged between bands of longshoremen armed with cargo hooks and the Teamsters who favoured sawn-off baseball bats. But the Teamsters' victory in this struggle did much to rehabilitate Beck with employers who, though they feared and disliked him, hated anything to do with communism even more.

One by one other unions and employers' associations fell into the only too receptive arms of the Teamsters. If they did not fall they were dragged. Hauliers in Los Angeles were told that goods moved by their non-union drivers would not be handled by Teamsters people outside their area. Naturally the hauliers were relieved to see their truckers become Teamsters en bloc. Similar tactics were used to dragoon the brewery workers within the Teamsters ranks. If it benefited his membership to have Teamsters helping to break other unions' strikes, Beck did not hesitate to authorise "scab" activity. Labour solidarity meant nothing to him. Indeed there came a point when he tended to sit in judgment on the behaviour of other unions and the rectitude or otherwise of their strikes.

These attitudes and their effects rapidly changed his image. Now he became the darling of American employers. Indeed, after he became leader of the Teamsters in 1952, the magisterial style of his actions and pronouncements was quite indistinguishable from the tone of most big businessmen and politicians. Thus, though he held political action in contempt, on one occasion when he felt US labour legislation ought to be altered to conform to his views, he announced that he would found a third political party modelled on that of Britain's Labour Party. Meanwhile raids on the membership of other unions went on, while within the union itself the leadership of many branches was suspended and his own puppets were installed.

However his love of the management style did not render him immune from the scrutiny of the law. In 1957 Beck appeared before the Senate Rackets Committee, accused by its Chief Counsel, then Robert F. Kennedy, of illegally commandeering $300,000 of union funds. He denied the charges but was almost immediately afterwards convicted by a Washington state court of embezzlement. In the following year he was convicted of federal income tax evasion, but appealed successfully. Finally, he was convicted of filing a fraudulent tax return, and jailed. He was released in 1964 and in 1965 the state governor pardoned him for his state conviction. In 1975 he was also pardoned on the federal conviction.

Through investment in real estate and a number of companies he controlled, Beck became enormously wealthy. Before his incarceration he had been a pillar of Seattle's Episcopal Church and sat on the state parole board.

He was married with one son.

LESLIE STALLARD

Leslie Stallard, former managing director of Midland News Association, died in Wolverhampton yesterday aged 78. He was born on June 21, 1915.

IN POSTWAR Britain, when regional newspapers were losing readers at an alarming rate, and when long established newspapers in Manchester, Birmingham, Leicester, Leeds and Edinburgh were forced to close, there was one family-owned newspaper publishing group which doubled its papers' circulation. The Midland News Association, which published the Wolverhampton *Express & Star* and the *Shropshire Star*, owed much of its success to the efforts of Leslie Stallard, the right-hand man for many years of the papers' dynamic proprietor, Malcolm Graham.

Stallard was an iconoclast who aimed to show the way forward not only for the rest of the regional press, but for a Fleet Street bogged down with restrictive printing practices and ancient machinery, and was squarely behind Graham in his commitment to new technology.

As head of advertising at the *Express & Star* during the 1950s he was also responsible for introducing the then novel concept of taking advertising over the telephone. And when, in 1964, the MNA bravely launched the *Shropshire Star* into a depressed market, it was Stallard who helped smooth its way as managing director of the new paper's controlling company.

Leslie Stallard began his 65-year career in the business as an office boy. He was first marked down for great things by Norrie Graham, co-proprietor of the newspaper in 1930. A friend of the sculptor Robert Jackson Emerson, Graham showed a great interest in the shape of the human cranium, and would regularly point out the 14-year-old Stallard to passers-by: "See the shape of his head? Mark my word, that young man is going to the top."

So it proved. Within six years, Stallard was in charge of the *Express & Star* pre-paid advertisement department and, after volunteering for war service with the Royal

Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, he was appointed advertisement manager in 1948. In this post he argued and won the case for taking advertisements over the phone — a decision which put the *Express & Star* far ahead of its regional competitors.

In 1956 he was elected to the board of the MNA and two years later became MNA general manager, during a period of unprecedented growth in the *Express & Star*'s circulation. By 1963 he had been appointed joint managing director of the Shropshire Star & Journal, the company formed to manage the new *Shropshire Star*. The launch of the evening paper the following year was viewed by outsiders as a doomed project from the start, but, as with the *Express & Star*, the MNA's policy of concentrating on local news and of reinvesting company profits into new technology paid handsomely.

The new paper was printed by the then state-of-the-art web-offset process which gave needle-sharp reproduction of pictures and offered full colour to advertisers. Together with the *Express & Star*, it became fully automated when the concept of the computerised newspaper was still just a gleam in many British publisher's eyes, not least in Fleet Street. Stallard had the satisfaction of seeing its circulation mount steadily from 20,000 to 100,000 over the next 20 years.

Stallard was made group managing director of the *Express & Star* in the mid-1970s. He retired as MNA managing director in 1983, but stayed on as chairman of Star News Shops, the group's retail newsagency business in charge of over 200 branches. As with everything he did, he described his aim as "to drag the corner newsagents, kicking and screaming if necessary, into the 20th century." He was also a past chairman of the Press Association, president of the West Midlands Newspaper Society and a former director of Reuters. Away from newspapers, he was a golfer, a governor of Wolverhampton Grammar School and fundraiser for the Wolverhampton Nuffield Hospital.

Leslie Stallard is survived by his second wife Maureen, their two sons, and two daughters from his first marriage.

HAROLD ROSENBERG

Harold Max Rosenberg, Emeritus Fellow of St Catherine's College and Reader in Physics at Oxford, died while on holiday in Brazil on November 21 aged 71. He was born in London on August 26, 1922.

HAROLD ROSENBERG was a distinguished experimental physicist who published two very successful textbooks — *Low Temperature Solid State Physics* (1963) and *The Solid State* (1975) — and over one hundred papers mainly about the electrical, thermal and mechanical properties of solids, especially at low temperatures.

His initial researches were on metals but in 1962 new phenomena associated with magnetism and the interaction between magnetism and phonons (the quantised vibrations that store and transport heat in insulating as well as metallic solids) began to interest him. This occupied his attention for the next decade. Then, in 1972, he began the work on composite, disordered and amorphous materials that lasted until his retirement.

On his 60th birthday, in 1982, Rosenberg was gloomily contemplating the need to find a new topic of research to last until his retirement, when a note from an old colleague, Ray Orbach in California, showed that his experimental results on the low temperature properties of amorphous materials found a natural explanation in terms of the newly discovered mathematical theory of fractals, by now of course familiar through the strange and beautiful pictures that they generate.

In a paper written jointly with Orbach and two of his colleagues the word "friction" first appears as a term for a quantised vibration in a partially disordered medium, a concept that he went on to elucidate at learned conferences and even in a lecture given to schoolchildren at the Royal Institution only a few weeks before his death.

The son of a small shopkeeper in East Ham, Harry Rosenberg left school at 16 and went into the Civil Service in a clerical post. He was called up and served throughout the war in the RAF working on radar which he had studied in his spare time.

On demobilisation he was given a further education and training grant and studied at University College London, graduating with a first class

honours degree in physics, and then at Oxford, obtaining a DPhil, in 1953, under Kurt Mendelssohn. Six years later he became a university lecturer and in 1978 was appointed a Reader. He also became a fellow of the newly founded Linacre College, a graduate college, and subsequently, in 1970, a tutorial fellow of St Catherine's College.

Rosenberg was a gifted lecturer, not only to undergraduates and to colleagues at conferences, but also to a much wider audience, both on the radio and on television. He had a knack of making complex ideas clear and steering his audience around pitfalls that they might encounter as they came to a new subject for the first time.

He played a full part in the affairs of the college and the university and other bodies such as the Institute of Physics, though he was never a committee man, regarding this service as a duty but also something of a chore. He was as active as the senior member of the undergraduate Science Society as he was on the faculty board.

Rosenberg was, above all, a great teacher, unstinting in the attention that he lavished on both his undergraduates and his research students. Generations of students have been grateful for the hospitality of Rosenberg and his wife Mildred Anna. His transfer from Linacre College (for which he retained great affection) to St Catherine's was motivated by his wish to teach undergraduates. From this he derived great pleasure — and a succession of recruits to his string quartet.

Although tolerant of incomprehension and even stupidity he had no patience with laziness; remembering how nearly he himself had missed the chance of a university education, he expected others who had been offered it to make the best of this opportunity.

He took a similar pastoral care of his graduate students and came in daily to see what they were doing and to "twiddle the knobs" and to make sure that they had optimised all the settings of their apparatus. As one of them, now himself a professor, has remarked, this is an important habit and one that sticks, though his own graduate students have taken to adding a few knobs that do nothing, just to keep him happy. Since Rosenberg's students came from, and penetrated to, the ends of the earth this habit has no doubt been spread world wide.

He is survived by his wife and their three daughters.

SIR JAMES HARFORD

Sir James Harford, KBE, CMG, former Governor of St Helena, died on November 26 aged 94. He was born on January 7, 1899.

JAMES HARFORD belonged to that generation of young veterans who, returning from the horror of the First World War, found their own peace amid Oxford's dreaming spires. When his grandson went up to Balliol 70 years on, he wrote him an affectionate letter, quoting Ovid: "Ille terrarum mihi praeter omnes angulus ridet" (that corner of the earth which among all others makes me smile).

A second lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion Essex Regiment, James Dundas Harford had gone into the trenches straight from Repton. Wounded in the closing stages of the fighting, he had ended the war in Belgium, in charge of prisoners-of-war at the age of 19. At Oxford he was awarded an honorary scholarship, at that time given to those who were considered to be scholarship material but whose chances of winning one had been spoilt by the war. He read Greats.

He was a founder member of the 1919 Club, formed by those who had gone up after the war, and relished the glittering company he found there. His contemporaries at Balliol included the writers, Nevil Shute, Beverley Nichols, and L. P. Hartley, the film director Anthony Asquith and the politicians, David Maxwell Fyfe, Christopher Hollis and Frank Soskice.

Harford's father was an Anglican clergyman at Great Yarmouth and had cherished hopes that his son would follow him into the ministry. At Repton Harford came under the successive headmasterships of William Temple and Geoffrey Fisher, both later to become archbishops of Canterbury. He wrote in his private memoirs before he died: "It would be difficult to estimate my debt to the chance of intimate and maintained association with these two men — so contrasting in their nature and quality of achievement but each with the quality of greatness."

Another master who inspired him was the young publisher-to-be Victor Gollancz who taught English (before being dismissed by Fisher). After Oxford, where he also played hockey for Balliol and captained the college at football, Harford found himself with few ideas for a career. A friend who was a

housemaster at Eton persuaded him to try teaching there for a while with the prospect of one day getting his own house. But after three years as an assistant master, he could stand no more of it and entered the colonial service.

In 1926 he joined the Nigerian administration where he soon found himself, with little training for the job, in charge of an area the size of Wales. But he was to spend eight years working in Nigeria, eventually becoming assistant secretary in the central secretariat and clerk to the executive and legislative councils — a post usually awarded to high fliers. Then, after two years in Whitehall, he was dispatched to the West Indies in 1936, initially as the administrator on Antigua and federal secretary of the Leeward Islands government. From there in 1940 he moved to become administrator on St Kitts-Nevis, where he remained throughout the war.

One of Harford's chief concerns was to ensure that the people in his charge had enough to eat. Food convoys ran the gauntlet of U-boats during the war, transporting food to a distribution centre in Barbados, from where smaller boats ferried supplies round the Caribbean islands. But Barbadians were tempted to fill up the small boats with rum (which they had in excess) instead of swordfish and rice which were most needed.

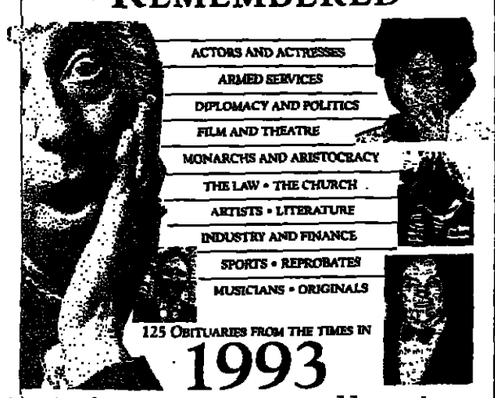
After 12 months in Whitehall Harford was next posted to Mauritius, as colonial secretary for five years — at a time when the island was preparing for universal suffrage. He went to St Helena as governor in 1954 and stayed there until 1958.

After retirement he worked as conference organiser for the Commonwealth Institute until 1964.

James Harford was a kind and courteous man, who was frequently described by that old-fashioned word "a gentleman". Months alone in the African night had given him a deep love of nature and the stars and in old age he was happiest in his garden, in the company of young people and the birds.

His first wife, Thelma, a count's daughter whom he met while skiing, died within a few years of their marriage and he is survived by his second wife, Lilias, a son from his first marriage and two daughters from his second.

THE TIMES
LIVES
~REMEMBERED~



ACTORS AND ACTRESSES
ARMED SERVICES
DIPLOMACY AND POLITICS
FILM AND THEATRE
MONARCHS AND ARISTOCRACY
THE LAW • THE CHURCH
ARTISTS • LITERATURE
INDUSTRY AND FINANCE
SPORTS • REPROBATES
MUSICIANS • ORIGINALS

125 OBITUARIES FROM THE TIMES IN
1993

A fascinating collection of mini biographies

– FOREWORD BY ROY HATTERSLEY –
EDITED BY ANTHONY HOWARD AND DAVID HEATON

ORDER FORM
–The Times LIVES REMEMBERED–
Please send me... ___ copy(ies) in hardback @ £14.99
___ copy(ies) in paperback @ £7.99
(Post free in UK, overseas orders add £6)
I enclose a cheque for £_____ made payable to:
'The Blewbury Press'
Alternatively please debit my Access/Visa card number

EXPIRY DATE SIGNATURE
NAME
ADDRESS
POSTCODE
TELEPHONE

Post coupon to:
The Blewbury Press Pound House Church Road
Blewbury Oxon OX11 9PY
Telephone orders: 0235 850110 Fax: 0420 478664
Also available from booksellers

Latest wills

Michael Platt Winstanley, Lord Winstanley, of Hale, Greater Manchester, Liberal MP for Cheadle 1966-70 and for Hazel Grove in 1974, and chairman of the Countryside Commission 1978-80, left estate valued at £159,183 net.

Sir Peter James Spicer, 4th Bart, of Fishbourne, West Sussex, former assistant secretary to the Delegates of the Oxford University Press, left estate valued at £263,093 net.
He left £5,000 to his trustees to apply among charitable institutions or individual persons as they select.

Mr Hugh George Gleadow Richardson, of Fowlmere, Cambridgeshire, left estate valued at £591,648 net.
He left £30,000 and his home and effects to personal legatees, and the residue to the Jefferiss Research Wing Trust at St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, London.

Sir Sidney Ridley, of Waybrook, Netherbury, Dorset, Domestic Bursar of St John's College, Oxford, 1960-68, and formerly Commissioner in Sind, India, left estate valued at £419,664 net.
He left £1,000 each to Lancaster Royal Grammar School, St John's College, Oxford, and Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.

Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Lane Cecil Ward, of Buckland Newton, Dorset, who commanded five different battalions between 1942 and 1951, and previously enjoyed an adventurous career on the North-West Frontier and in Burma, left estate valued at £82,571 net.

Mr Robert Melville Norris, of Fareham, Hampshire, left estate valued at £2,739,618 net.
He left his estate to his son.

Lieutenant Colonel His Honour John Barrington Taylor, of Tiverton, Devon, former circuit judge, left estate valued at £280,907 net.

Other estates include (net before tax):
Mr William Roxburgh Barr, of Winchcombe, Gloucestershire..... £819,442.
Mr Ernest Arthur Cobb, of Liphook, Hampshire... £1,799,036.
Winifred Maud Dowell, of Stretton under Posse, Warwickshire..... £1,104,735.
Mr John Owen Evans, of Brecon, Powys..... £509,462.

THE "BACK-YARD FARMER" CASE FOR MORE RADIO INSTRUCTION

From a Special Correspondent

It is an opportune moment, when Lord Beveridge's committee of inquiry is considering the functions of the B.B.C., to make a brief survey of the potential listening public to programmes designed to assist listeners in the best use of their leisure time ...

The term "back-yard farming" has been aptly coined to cover the many branches of amateur husbandry - gardening, the keeping of small livestock, racing pigeons, or bee-keeping. Every one of these pastimes calls for skill and knowledge and provides the mental relaxation which comes from manual dexterity, exercise in the fresh air, and working with and not against Nature. In the great majority of cases they can be pursued at home, inexpensively, often profitably, and in these impoverished times these are factors of inestimable importance which can contribute enormously to the well-being and contentment of millions of people ...

It is possible from known statistics to obtain an estimate of the surprisingly large numbers of people interested in "back-yard farming". There has already been published in these columns an estimate of the number of people who cultivate allotments or gardens - probably more than 2m. of them are members of some organization - but this must be only a fraction of those who devote some time to the pursuit of horticulture; some estimates place the total number at nearer 20m.

Over 289,000 members of pig clubs care for a quarter of a million pigs, and 100,000 pigs are kept by individuals, so there are now 400,000 domestic pig-keepers. About 1,500,000 people keep domestic poultry, while membership of rabbit clubs totals over 53,000. Rationed feeding-stuffs are issued for 184,000 does, and it is almost impossible to estimate the number of rabbit keepers who are not members of a club. The British Goat Society has over 4,000 members, while it is estimated there are 100,000 bee-keepers keeping over 600,000 stocks, the annual value of which in pollination and production of honey is over £7m.

New recruits to the ranks of racing pigeon fanciers are coming along at the rate of hundreds every week and over 100,000 now belong to the racing pigeon organizations.

After a study of these figures it is difficult to understand why more broadcasting time should not be devoted to these interests. Out of weekly total of some 250 hours of broadcasting in the main programmes, 15 minutes are devoted to horticulture with occasionally a few minutes in the Woman's Hour programme, while only 10 minutes are vouchsafed for all the other "back-yard" activities.

If it is claimed for the B.B.C. that it has an important educational function to perform, the size of the listening potential to a given programme cannot be regarded as the only consideration. It must further be remembered that many thousands of these "back-yard farmers" were first stimulated to embrace their particular hobby through listening to broadcast talks, so that besides a duty to the existing audience, the B.B.C. has an ever-present opportunity to introduce even more listeners to these particular recreations.

ON THIS DAY

December 29 1949

Today, 'back-yard' pigs, rabbits and pigeons are not often found in radio or television programmes; gardening, however, both horticulture and kitchen, has become a feature with a large following

THE TIMES TODAY WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 1993

NEWS

Economic optimism for 1994

■ Business leaders, economists and housing specialists last night were confidently predicting a happy new year for the economy after more than three years in the doldrums.

Low inflation and interest rates, falling unemployment and the Gatt deal have all contributed to a growing mood of optimism that has seen prices on nearly all the world's stock markets hitting record levels ..... Pages 1, 2, 28, 29, 30

War-weary catch the bus to freedom

■ In the dim early hours, they trudged through falling sleet and snow to what they hoped would be freedom. Many had signed up for the bus convoy out of Sarajevo in the autumn of 1992. Eight hundred women, children, the old and those too crippled to fight were bound for Split. A second convoy, heading for Belgrade, was due to leave later ..... Page 1

Safari youth held

A teenager has been arrested on suspicion of drink-driving three days after returning from an 80-day "character building" tour of Africa ..... Page 1

Zhirinovsky bar

The Russian right-winger Vladimir Zhirinovsky has been ordered to leave Bulgaria for insulting its president ..... Page 1

Vatican criticism

The Vatican fuelled the controversy over in-vitro fertilisation when a leading expert specifically criticised the 59-year-old London woman who gave birth to twins on Christmas Day ..... Page 2

Mafia drug link

The Mafia has been directly linked with drug-smuggling to Britain after the seizure of 250 kilograms of cocaine at Felixstowe, Suffolk ..... Page 3

Care fails test

Probation and community service has not proved any more effective than prison in stopping re-offending, a report says ..... Page 4

Up in smoke

Cigarettes will attract higher tax to ensure that prices rise above the rate of inflation, as part of a £12 million government anti-smoking campaign ..... Page 5

Training for truants

Teenage truants are to be trained as entrepreneurs under a scheme imported from the US that aims to break the "dependency culture" of inner cities ..... Page 6

Tower safer

The Tower of London is being made safer for visitors after a campaign by *The Times* that highlighted fire risks in Crown properties ..... Page 6

Hezbollah bombed

Israel's air force bombed Hezbollah targets in Lebanon while its negotiators in Cairo sought to bridge negotiating gaps with the PLO that have set back peace arrangements ..... Page 7

Saudis gain voice

The Saudi royal family finally honours a 30-year-old pledge today, when the kingdom's subjects are given a toehold on the country's political life ..... Page 7

Chinese claim

The Hang Seng index rose sharply after Peking's declaration that, on the last day of British rule, Hong Kong's system of government will be expunged and a new administration installed ... Page 8

Donald stuck

The Disney empire may be about to pull in its horns. Speculation is growing that it will cancel proposals to expand Disneyland in Los Angeles, and residents in Virginia are fighting plans for a theme park ..... Page 8

Bosnian betrayal

"The most painful thing is seeing the fathers of human rights turning away from what is clearly genocide." Why Haris Silajdzic, Bosnia's Prime Minister, feels betrayed by the West ..... Page 9

Snow chills the Christmas barbie

■ Picnic hampers had been prepared, and surfboards loaded on to car roofs. But with the sort of timing usually reserved for British bank holidays, Australia's weather has intervened. Melbourne has had its coldest Christmas this century, snow fell in Canberra and the Sydney-Hobart yacht race has been hit by huge waves and driving rain ..... Pages 1, 7

CHRIS HARRIS

Snow flurries on the A12 near Colchester, Essex, yesterday. Police in the North described road conditions as atrocious. Pages 1, 2

SPORT

Football: Chelsea arrested their long slide towards the bottom of the Premiership by beating Newcastle United with a first-half goal from striker Mark Stein at Stamford Bridge ..... Page 17

Snooker: The life of a snooker player is not all dim lights and smoke-filled halls. Andrew Longmore discovers that practice makes perfect for Peter Ebdon, a rising star of the sport ..... Page 22

Sports review: "If one image summed up the year it was Capt Keith Brown, the Grand National starter, vainly waving his flag in the face of unstoppable progress." Simon Barnes looks back on the agonies of 1993 ..... Page 23

BUSINESS

Business backed: The Bank of England has dismissed allegations that clearing banks failed to support small businesses during the recession ..... Page 32

Jobs hope: Full employment is the goal for all Conservative employment secretaries, according to David Hunt in an interview with *The Times* ..... Pages 30, 32

BCCI protest: British creditors of BCCI are protesting after American authorities dropped charges against Saudi bank officers in return for payment of $225 million ..... Page 32

Tempus tips: As world markets set records, 1994 looks to be the year for recovery stocks ..... Page 30

FEATURES

Glorious schlock: "The one unchanging certainty about festive television is that Mr Blobbies may come and go, but the ritual of the maudlin, overdressed, addictive Woman's Movies goes on forever," Libby Purves writes ..... Page 10

Balanced diet: As the cult of thinness has gradually perverted our view of our bodies, so a huge range of misleading and even fraudulent products has emerged ..... Page 10

Impolite society: Not so long ago a gentleman who told the world that his fiancée was a "silly old tart" was a gentleman facing the social gulag. Julia Llewellyn Smith reports on the return of the bounder ..... Page 11

ARTS

First-night fisticuffs: On day three of the *Times* series recalling the birth of cultural icons, Benedict Nightingale describes the night in 1907 when the Dublin premiere of Synge's *Playboy of the Western World* was greeted with riots in the streets ..... Page 25

Magic roundabout: One man's dream will become a reality in 1996 when a £6 million National Fairground Museum is established to pay tribute to an important part of our popular heritage ..... Page 26

Videotape memories: The first big British exhibition of work by the video artist Bill Viola shows that video can be as mesmerising as the most powerful painting ..... Page 27

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Pete Jolliffe, whose pet fox cub was killed when hounds from the Tedworth Hunt burst into his garden. The cub was tethered to its kennel
Page 3

Mark Stein scored his second goal in consecutive days as Chelsea beat Newcastle United 1-0. It was Chelsea's first win in 12 games
Page 17

Strobe Talbott, a Russian scholar who was at Oxford with President Clinton, has been appointed deputy to the Secretary of State
Page 8

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Rolling back the years

■ "Everybody, and everything, seemed to go slightly mad in 1963." Alastair Horne asks whether papers from the Public Records Office will produce any new facts about the most sensational of years

One body, many minds

■ The problem of individuals with a single body, but who behave as if they are two or more personalities, has a long history. Dr Simon Wessely reports

Having their say

■ Peter Barnard on the night when ordinary mortals began to alter television's agenda

TV LISTINGS

One of the more unusual musical performances of 1993 was Damon Runyon's *Guys and Dolls*, staged by inmates of Wandsworth prison in south London. The backstage story is told in *Guys, Dolls and D-Wing* (BBC2, 8pm) ..... Page 31

OPINION

Little platoons

Between Leviathan and citizen lie the communities in which single-parent families live and which bear a basic responsibility for their welfare. The fact that the police were alerted at all in the recent cases of child desertion suggests that the instincts of neighbourliness remain powerful ..... Page 13

Mr Rao's Dr Singh

India's secular and democratic health depends, to a great extent, on Dr Singh's economic management. It depends, also, on the statesman in Mr Rao ..... Page 13

Four colly birds

Why give anyone a blackbird? It is neither brightly plumed, nor particularly inventive ..... Page 13

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

If scientists can now help infertile or older women to have normal babies, good for science. The ultimate responsibility lies with the parents, and with the parents alone. This is the most intimate of decisions ..... Page 12

ANNE McELVOY

The Russians did not consider democracy still so vulnerable as to need defending at the ballot box, and by their carelessness they left ajar the door to extremism. The prospect of Mr Zhirinovsky bearing down on them may yet remind the country's democrats how much they have to lose ..... Page 12

LETTERS

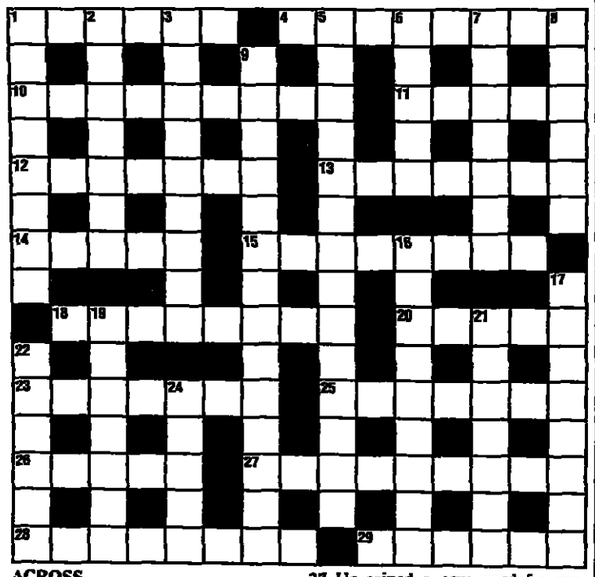
The European members of Nato must help the United States if North Korea should invade South Korea ..... Page 13

THE PAPERS

Surely Hillary Clinton was disingenuous in saying during her year-end interview that she was "bewildered" that Whitewater remained "a topic of enquiry". Some of those involved should go up on oath somewhere to testify on what really happened when Bill Clinton presided over banking regulation in Arkansas

— The Wall Street Journal

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,425



ACROSS

1 The first person in a position to order fish (6)
4 Clean fellow, but a bit of a swine (4,4)
10 Being only temporary, this may be modified instanter (9)
11 Took off the French fitting (5)
12 No dreamer where a schedule's concerned! (7)
13 Decide to imbibe a large port (7)
14 The artist's little boys pose half-time (5)
15 Quite charming — promising too (8)
18 Empowered to accept name-change, so acquiescent (8)
20 Little to impress English visitors in this city (5)
23 Underhand writer makes a bloomer (7)
25 The touching line of a man on strike (7)
26 A team batting is exhausted (3,2)
27 He coined a new word for one breaking the record first (9)
28 Saves men making personal commitment (8)
29 Approach both single and married and hang the outcome! (6)

DOWN

1 They offer support to the workers down under (3-5)
2 It's hard for a worker to hold the barricade (7)
3 Spanish or Italians — possibly under a hundred (9)
5 What one may tell oneself is the aim of a car advertisement (4-10)
6 Harry a university man, though game (5)
7 Listen to 'X' and cheer (7)
8 A club that's quiet, say (6)
9 Not thinking to broadcast and breathe fire (7-7)
16 Accommodation provided for the rest of the players (5-4)
17 Put in this month — date to be arranged (8)
19 Hang-ups can give rise to irascibility in doctors (7)
21 Steps taken over a barrier without hesitation but to no avail (7)
22 Turn white at seeing a novice inshore (6)
24 Nothing upset the American legal official, a woman (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,424

A	L	L	E	G	E		S	P	U	R	I	O	U	S
D	A	R	I	L	O	U	P							
M	E	R	M	A	I	D		A	P	O	S	T	L	E
I		I	V	E		T	M	R		C				
R	E	A	D	E	R	S	H	I	P		R	A	N	K
A		T		S			T		S		G			
L	E	S	O	T	H	O		U	S	E	L	E	S	S
T		O		R		D	E			H				
Y	E	A	R	N	E	D		E	A	T	A	B	L	E
		L	E		I			H	E	L				
M	E	A	N		E	N	D	E	A	R	M	E	N	T
U		M		U		A		T		O		L	E	
S	T	E	P	S	O	N		C	O	U	R	I	E	R
I		D	E		C	H		G		N		E		
C	H	A	B	R	I	E	R		S	H	I	E	L	D

This tiebreak puzzle was solved in six minutes at the 1993 London A final of The Times Knockando Crossword Championship

Times Two Crossword, page 32

TIMES RECORDED HELPLINES

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Outbreaks of rain will clear from eastern areas by midday, followed by bright intervals and showers. The showers will mainly affect western areas where they may become heavy and prolonged with some thunder; eastern areas will have the best of any sunshine. The showers may fall as sleet or snow over the highest hills of Scotland and northern England. Milder than of late, but rather windy. Outlook: rain, then showers. Breezy.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	11	52	s	Majorca	11	52	r
Alicotti	21	70	s	Malaga	15	59	c
Alexdria	22	72	s	Malta	13	55	r
Algiers	16	61	f	Melb'rne	11	52	r
Amst'dm	4	39	r	Mexico C	17	63	s
Athens	18	61	s	Miami	22	72	s
Bahrain	22	72	s	Milan	6	43	s
Bangkok	27	81	s	Montreal	-26	-15	s
Barbados	27	81	c	Moscow	1	34	f
Barcelona	7	45	f	Munich	-1	30	sn
Beirut	21	70	s	Nairobi	21	70	f
Belgrade	2	36	r	Naples	10	50	f
Berlin	1	34	c	N Delhi	20	68	s
Biarritz	7	45	s	N York	-6	19	f
Borde'x	5	41	f	Nice	11	52	s
Brussels	4	39	c	Oslo	-9	15	s
Budapst	3	37	r	Paris	4	39	f
B Aires	28	82	s	Peking	7	45	s
Cairo	22	72	s	Perth	37	99	c
Cape Tn	22	72	s	Prague	1	34	f
Chicago	-9	16	s	Reykjavik	1	34	f
Ch'church	18	64	f	Rhodes	17	63	c
Cologne	3	37	d	Rio de J	36	97	f
C'phagn	1	34	c	Riyadh	23	73	s
Corfu	10	50	t	Roma	10	50	s
Dublin	4	39	c	Salzburg	-1	30	c
Dubrownik	8	46	s	S F'disco	9	48	s
Faro	15	59	f	Santiago	30	86	s
Florence	6	43	s	S Paulo	28	79	s
Frankfurt	3	37	c	Seoul	3	37	s
Funchal	16	61	c	Sing'por	28	82	t
Geneva	0	32	f	St'kholm	-3	27	sn
Gibraltar	14	57	c	Strasb'rg	1	34	f
Helsinki	-12	10	c	Sydney	20	68	f
Hong K	20	68	s	Tangier	15	59	c
Innsbrck	-3	27	s	Tel Aviv	21	70	s
Istanbul	13	55	r	Tenerife	17	63	c
Jeddah	30	86	f	Tokyo	14	57	s
Jo'burg	26	79	f	Toronto	-10	14	c
Karachi	27	81	s	Tunis	14	57	f
L Palmas	17	63	c	Valencia	16	61	s
Le Touet	6	41	f	Vanc'ver	0	32	c
Lisbon	13	55	s	Venice	8	46	s
Locarno	10	50	c	Vienna	0	32	sn
L Angels	16	61	c	Warsaw	2	36	f
Luxembg	2	36	c	Wash'ton	-3	27	c
Luxor	24	75	s	Wel'ngton	17	63	d
Madrid	11	52	c	Zurich	-1	30	sn

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F.	
Anglesey	0.1	0.02	5	41	rain
Aviemore	1.8	-	0	32	cloudy
Belfast	-	0.01	4	39	rain
Bognor Regis	4.6	-	3	37	bright
Bournemouth	-	-	3	37	cloudy
Bristol	0.1	-	3	37	rain
Buxton	-	-	0	32	cloudy
Cardiff	0.2	0.06	3	37	rain
Clacton	-	-	4	39	cloudy
Cromer	0.2	0.04	5	41	shower
Eastbourne	3.5	-	4	39	sunny
Edinburgh	0.6	-	-1	30	cloudy
Eskdalemuir	1.2	-	-1	30	cloudy
Exmouth	1.1	-	7	45	cloudy
Falmouth	-	0.04	7	45	shower
Folkestone	0.4	-	4	39	cloudy
Glasgow	-	-	1	34	cloudy
Guernsey	2.5	-	8	46	bright
Hastings	2.6	-	5	41	sunny
Hunstanton	-	0.09	4	39	cloudy
Isle of Man	-	0.02	5	41	rain
Jersey	4.4	-	7	45	bright
Kinloss	2.2	-	2	36	bright
Leeds	3.7	-	5	41	bright
Lerwick	0.3	0.02	3	37	hail
Liverpool	0.1	-	1	34	cloudy
London	3.9	-	5	41	sunny
Lowestoft	1.0	0.05	5	41	shower
Manchester	0.1	-	2	36	cloudy
Margate	-	-	4	39	dull
Morecambe	0.2	-	2	36	dull
Newcastle	0.1	0.02	3	37	rain
Nottingham	4.4	-	3	37	bright
Penzance	-	0.16	9	48	shower
Plymouth	0.3	-	7	45	cloudy
Poole	0.1	-	3	37	cloudy
Saunton Snd	-	0.08	5	41	cloudy
Scarborough	-	0.24	3	37	shower
Scilly Isles	2.6	-	10	50	bright
Shanklin	4.2	-	4	39	bright
Southend	0.1	0.01	4	39	cloudy
Southsea	3.8	-	3	37	cloudy
Stornoway	-	0.01	5	41	rain
Swanage	0.2	-	5	41	cloudy
Teignmouth	1.3	-	7	45	bright
Tenby	0.1	0.26	5	41	rain
Tiree	-	0.08	6	43	rain
Torquay	1.4	-	7	45	bright
Weymouth	0.5	-	7	45	bright

These are Monday's figures

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 7C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 2C (36F). Humidity: 6pm, 83 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.05in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6pm, 1,008.1 millibars, rising.
1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

HIGHEST/LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Scilly Isles 10C (50F); lowest day max: Aboyne, Grampian —15C (5F); highest rainfall: Milford Haven, Dyfed 0.29in; highest sunshine: Bognor Regis, West Sussex 4.8hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 4C (39F); min 6pm to 6am, 1C (34F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.63in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 1C (34F); min 6pm to 6am, 0C (32F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.26in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil.

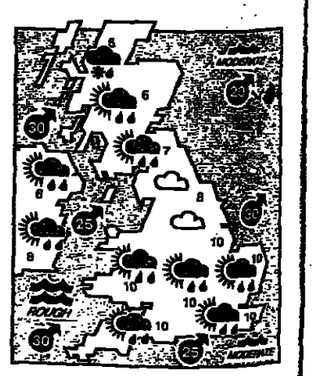
TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.34	2.14
Austria Sch	18.85	17.33
Belgium Fr	55.87	51.47
Canada $	2.107	1.947
Cyprus Cypf	0.767	0.737
Denmark Kr	10.82	09.72
Finland Mrk	9.13	08.33
France Fr	9.09	8.39
Germany Dm	2.69	2.48
Greece Dr	386.00	361.00
Hong Kong $	12.21	11.21
Ireland Pt	1.09	1.01
Italy Lire	2578.00	2423.00
Japan Yen	180.00	163.00
Malta	0.620	0.565
Netherlands Gld	2.990	2.760
Norway Kr	11.60	10.80
Portugal Esc	270.50	252.00
South Africa Rd	5.80	4.90
Spain Pta	217.50	203.50
Sweden Kr	12.85	12.05
Switzerland Fr	2.28	2.10
Turkey Lira	21390.0	20390.0
USA $	1.592	1.462

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading Thursday 23 December.

AM

PM



LIGHTING-UP TIMES

London 3.59 pm to 8.06 am
Bristol 4.09 pm to 8.16 am
Edinburgh 3.46 pm to 8.44 am
Manchester 3.57 pm to 8.25 am
Penzance 4.28 pm to 8.21 am

Sun rises: 8.08 am
Sun sets: 3.58pm
Moon sets: 8.07 am
Moon rises: 5.00 pm

Full Moon December 26

Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989: The hours of darkness are defined in these Regulations as the period between half an hour after sunset and half an hour before sunrise.

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

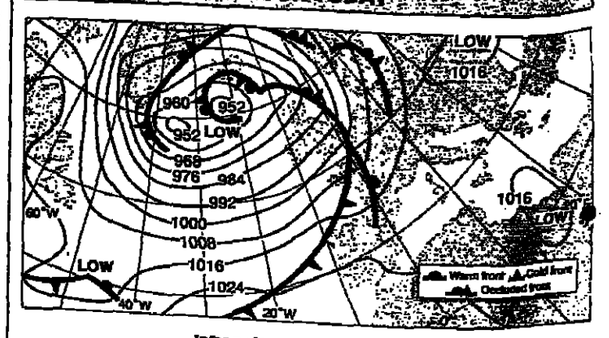
	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	1	34	s	Guernsey	4	39	c
B'mgham	1	34	s	Inverness	-2	28	f
Blackpool	1	34	s	Jersey	5	41	c
Bristol	2	36	s	London	3	37	r
Cardiff	2	36	c	M'nchester	1	34	s
Edinburgh	-2	28	f	Newcastle	2	36	c
Glasgow	-2	28	f	R'nildsway	2	36	s

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	1.45	6.9	2.06	6.9
Aberdeen	1.19	4.0	1.28	4.3
Avonmouth	7.13	12.6	7.38	12.6
Belfast	11.08	3.5	11.27	3.2
Cardiff	6.58	11.7	7.23	11.7
Devonport	5.55	5.4	6.18	5.2
Dover	11.01	6.3	11.27	6.5
Falmouth	5.25	5.2	5.48	5.0
Glasgow	1.03	4.3	1.05	4.8
Harwich	—	—	Noon	3.8
Holyhead	10.24	5.5	10.44	5.4
Hull	6.22	7.0	6.36	7.2
Ilfracombe	5.57	8.9	6.18	8.8
King's Lynn	6.33	6.1	6.42	6.5
Leith	2.33	5.2	2.47	5.3

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Liverpool	11.18	9.2	11.39	9.1
Lowestoft	9.33	2.3	9.41	2.5
Margate	—	—	12.14	4.6
Milford Haven	6.17	6.7	6.39	6.7
Newquay	5.07	6.7	5.29	6.9
Oban	5.47	3.9	6.15	3.9
Penzance	4.50	5.5	5.14	5.6
Portland	6.42	2.1	7.11	1.9
Portsmouth	11.19	4.8	11.47	4.7
Shoreham	11.11	6.0	11.39	6.0
Southampton	11.00	4.5	11.30	4.5
Swansea	6.28	9.1	6.46	9.1
Tees	3.42	5.1	3.57	5.3
W'ton-on-Nze	11.54	4.0	—	—

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

©TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED 1993. Published and printed by Times Newspapers Ltd at 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 071-782 5000 and at Knowsley Park Industrial Estate, Kiltting Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9FY, telephone 051-546 2000. Wednesday, December 29, 1993. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

هكذا من الأصل

QUIZ 20
Win with The Times Aberlour whisky competition

ARTS 25-27
Can video be as potent as painting?

BUSINESS 28-32
Hunt leads from front in fight to cut unemployment

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Page 31

THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 1993

Battling victory against Newcastle brings relief for Hoddle

Stein launches Chelsea revival

Johnsen, the Chelsea defender, and Spackman keep a close watch on the advancing Cole, of Newcastle, at Stamford Bridge yesterday. Photograph: Julian Herbert

Chelsea 1
Newcastle United 0

BY ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

HAPPINESS is not, after all, a cigar. Nor is it necessarily wrapped with style or fluency. It was the face, at ten to five on a wet Tuesday afternoon in west London, of Glenn Hoddle.

His demeanour when his Chelsea side, without a win since September and sliding towards the dark hole of relegation, turned Premiership form on its head to defeat Newcastle United was the personification of relief. Chelsea's narrow victory, courtesy of the second goal in two days by Mark Stein, had ended in a barricade of their own net.

Forget the pretensions of Hoddle trying to influence English football with continental grace, flair and tactics. Forget that Newcastle, built in astonishing time as the Liverpool of the 1990s by Kevin Keegan, their manager,were expected to emerge as easy victors. This was a matter of survival, a grim and pragmatic function as early as Christmas, but one which Chelsea performed with such determination that Hoddle stood long after the final whistle to embrace, man by man, every one of his chosen players.

"My relief was the last four or five minutes," Hoddle said. "The commitment and character as well as the ability was credit to all the lads. We had spent Monday night in a hotel together, and clearly they had listened to all that was said. But it smacked of the victories over Manchester United and Liverpool, we must learn from the mistake of treating those as commendable one-off results. The important thing for me as manager is that this has to be the foundation to give our supporters, who have stayed really patient, a run of good results and get ourselves out of trouble."

Realism, the Hoddle way. We know he would rather inculcate into his team the vision and elegance for which he was famed as a player. But, if he is honest, he might now acknowledge that he has tried too quickly, and with too few talents at Stamford Bridge, to formulate such football.

And yet the goal was his brand of football. Dennis Wise, his captain and throughout yesterday the finest player on the field, created it with a perceptiveness and an ability that Hoddle himself might have envied. Wise picked up the ball near the halfway line. He ignored Sinclair, his own player, lying in agony on the ground and calling for treatment, and lifting his head, delivered the ball from left to right fully 40 yards over the head of Beresford, the Newcastle left back, who as ever was advancing eagerly into an attacking position.

The ball dropped for Stein. The impish little forward controlled it at a touch, danced a yard back, a yard to his left, shook off two defenders and made the perfect angle to chip the ball home past the advancing Hooper from ten yards.

The goal ignited Stamford Bridge. The Prime Minister, no less, had declared his faith in Chelsea when, 24 hours earlier they had succumbed to defeat against fellow strugglers Southampton. And before half-time, with Wise still calling the shots, with Beardsley nothing like his equal for Newcastle, Stein might have had two more goals. Neither he nor Peacock could react to a cross from Dow midway through the half and then, after Chelsea reverted to route one and Shipperley had headed down a long kick from Kharine, Wise once more invited Stein to score.

The former Stoke forward committed the cardinal sin of taking his eye off the ball. He stretched forward, overreached, and the ball rebounded high and wide off his shin.

Cole, who has this season outscored the entire impoverished Chelsea team, was also a wastrel yesterday. Moments after the goal by Stein he was presented with a one-on-one opening after a woeful back pass from Burley. Cole, strangely exemplifying his team's unaccustomed lethargy, hesitated long enough for Kharine to advance and throw himself bravely at the ball.

It was a long time before Cole had another opportunity, but again when Sellars prodded the ball through a square Chelsea defence in the 78th minute, the Newcastle striker should have beaten Kharine, again his instincts were lacking, and again the Russian goalkeeper denied him, this time saving with his legs.

There were gritty performances for Chelsea from Newton, for the way he policed Beardsley, from the centre backs, Sinclair and Johnsen, and above all from the persistent Wise. There was a return, late in the game, for Nigel Spackman, after 14 months of harrowing recovery from a back injury. His experience, his foot on the ball, and his talking calmed nerves.

But Chelsea could not have beaten Newcastle without a considerable deterioration in the northern team's form. Their rhythm, their running, their effervescence were lacking. Keegan made no attempt to disguise it. "I didn't think we did enough to get a result, despite a lot of possession", he said. "Too many of our team didn't perform. I warned them that Chelsea would scrap and treat it as a big game, a chance to turn their season around. I'm disappointed for our fans who are made to pay £25 to get in and watch this poor performance.

"I've told the players that they owe us nothing, that they've climbed mountains for this club. But if those players think they've done enough, they will soon find themselves on the outside. If they start living in the past, we'll make changes. They have to know I'll never settle for being an also-ran, I'd rather get out of the game than do that."

However, acknowledging that one man's pain is another man's pleasure, Keegan turned and congratulated Hoddle. "If Glenn is given a chance here, he'll turn it around. He knows his team didn't play great football today, they battled. But everyone knows that in English football having one without the other, great players without battling performances, you never win a thing."

CHELSEA (4-4-2): D Kharine — S Clarke, F Sinclair, E Johnsen, A Dow — C Burley, E Newton, G Peacock (sub: N Spackman, 70min), D Wise — M Stein, N Shipperley (sub: J Spencer, 81).
NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): M Hooper — S Watson (sub: M Robinson, 63), B Venison, S Howey, J Beresford — R Lee, L Clark (sub: A Mathie, 63), P Bracewell, S Sellars — A Cole, P Beardsley.
Referee: J Worrall.

Weather beaten

THE weather again made inroads into the holiday sports programme, with ten football matches postponed in England as well as the only league match in Scotland. The problems were caused by snow or, where the thaw came, waterlogging.

The worst of the weather was in the Midlands and North, where rugby league was also affected. The FA Carling Premiership match between Coventry City and Ipswich Town was the main football casualty on a day when the fixture-list, laced with local derbies, attracted large crowds.

Snow accounted for the race meeting at Wetherby yesterday, but the other three meetings went ahead. An inspection is planned at Plumpton this morning.

Rain continued to plague the first Test match between Australia and South Africa in Melbourne, where only 129 minutes' play was possible on the third day. The city is experiencing some of its wettest and coldest December weather since records began almost 150 years ago.

Lee syndicate moves nearer City takeover with new deal

BY PETER BALL AND OLIVER HOLT

FRANCIS Lee edged a fraction closer to taking over as chairman of Manchester City yesterday, even though his consortium has still not made a formal offer for the club. Lee is expected to take over next week, with Peter Swales, the club chairman for 20 years until his recent resignation, almost certainly withdrawing from further involvement at Maine Road.

"I hope the situation will be resolved within the next week or so," Lee said yesterday, when it was being suggested that in addition to paying £12 million for the shares, the Lee syndicate is considering spending around £60 million to improve the ground and the team. "We need a period of peace and calm," Lee said. "There are a number of important games coming up, and the players need to concentrate on gaining points rather than events in the boardroom."

Initially it was expected that Lee, the club's former England international, might be installed in time for yesterday's game with Southampton. But a board meeting in the morning broke up without any conclusion. "No formal offer has been received, so we were unable to discuss it," Chris Muir, one of the present board, said.

With merchant bankers and solicitors reluctant to work over the holiday, it may be some time before a formal offer is made, but it seems likely that the Lee consortium is looking to take a sizeable shareholding without having to make an offer. Swales and Stephen Boler hold 30 per cent each, with the the brewers, Greenall Whitley, holding another 20 per cent.

"We are negotiating with the major shareholders, but not yet with the board," Colin Barlow, a member of Lee's group who is expected to be appointed chief executive, confirmed yesterday. "If discussions go right with the major shareholders, I expect it will come to fruition some time next week."

Meanwhile, the battle for control of Everton took a new twist yesterday when one of the contestants, Bill Kenwright, the former *Coronation Street* actor turned theatre impresario, threatened to withdraw his bid after he was barracked by a section of the Goodison Park crowd during the club's 2-0 defeat by Sheffield Wednesday at Goodison Park on Monday night.

The rivalry between Kenwright's consortium and Peter Johnson, the Tranmere Rovers chairman who is also bidding for a controlling interest in Everton, has become increasingly bitter. Johnson has been accused of having sympathies for rivals Liverpool, while Kenwright has had to refute suggestions that his key supporters are Mancunians.

Both presented their cases to the Everton board on Monday, but it was announced that they would delay a decision until they had been given "further information", something which enraged Johnson. "Both bids were on the table," he said. "They should have made their minds up and my offer is financially so much ahead of the other."

But Kenwright was the more annoyed of the two. "I came into this for one reason only," he said. "I wanted to do my very best for the fans by trying to put my weight and money behind the club. But I left Goodison last night feeling a little disillusioned, along with many people. I explained my ambition for the club to those fans who approached me. But I am now left thinking about my next move."

City rescue, page 19
Birmingham reign, page 18

LASER CORRECTION OF SHORTSIGHT

Medically eliminate the need for glasses or contact lenses with the latest laser technology.

Our specialist ophthalmic doctors permanently alter the surface of the eye with precision and safety.

The laser treatment (PRK) is painless and takes about 15 seconds and is programmed to your prescription. There is no overnight stay, no injections and no incisions!

By specialising, Optimax has made a breakthrough in the cost of this treatment. We are now the largest PRK provider in the UK having performed over 3,000 treatments in our clinics in London, Bristol and shortly in Manchester.

£395 per eye

OPTIMAX LASER EYE CLINICS
128 Finchley Road, Hampstead NW3
Manchester M2 and Bristol BS1

Enjoy the Future without glasses
Phone, or post coupon for further details
071 431 6708

To: OPTIMAX 128 Finchley Rd., London NW3 5HT
Please send me a free information pack REF: TT10
Mr/Mrs/Miss- First Name
Surname
Address
Post Code Age
Tel: Hm Wk
To determine suitability enclose a copy of your glasses prescription.

Two yachts sink as leader is forced to pull out

Quinn: hypothermia

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

BRINDABELLA was forced to retire from the Sydney-to-Hobart yacht race yesterday after damaging its bow. Yves Pajot and his French crew aboard Bobsled-Société Générale, which had trailed Brindabella by 55 kilometres, took over the lead and is on course to reach Hobart this afternoon.

Crew members made temporary repairs to the Brindabella, but when the bow problems persisted, the yacht had to be sailed to Flinders Island off Tasmania, where the decision to pull out was taken.

The Canberra Flyer, which had defied the atrocious conditions for most of the race, became yet another victim of the 40ft seas whipped up by headwinds approaching 60mph.

The New South Wales state pair of Micropay Cuckoos Nest and Ninety Seven were battling for second place, almost 50 kilometres behind Bobsled.

The 105-yacht fleet that left Sydney on Sunday was reduced to 48 with Brindabella's withdrawal and officials were preparing for another hectic night.

However, organisers stood by their decision to allow the race to continue despite the conditions and the incident on Monday night in which John Quinn, a 49-year-old executive from Sydney, fell from his yacht, MEM, and spent 5½ hours in stormy seas before being rescued by a passing oil tanker.

A second yacht, Adjuster, from New South Wales, sank yesterday following the loss on Monday of the Tasmanian entry, Clwyd, the first boat to sink in the race's 49-year history.

The full details of Quinn's survival emerged yesterday. Greg Halls, the race director, said that after two hours he had given up Quinn for dead. The race's media centre began preparing an obituary and next of kin were notified that he was missing.

Four yachts in the area and the tanker, Ampol Sarel, were swung into the search area at the mouth of Bass Strait by Canberra Sea Rescue, and the tanker's searchlights picked up the reflective tape on Quinn's jacket.

The tanker's engines were cut to allow its crew to hear Quinn's cries and, 15 minutes later, he was lifted aboard, suffering from hypothermia. He was taken to Eden, on the New South Wales coast.

"It was just a miraculous discovery," Halls said. "To be able to ring his next of kin and tell them he had been found was a very emotional moment."

Quinn, who was sailing in his thirteenth Sydney-to-Hobart race, said it would be his last, but added that he had never given up hope of being rescued. "We were hit by a freak wave," Quinn said. "I was on the helm and got pitched across the boat. I probably took half the lifelines with me. I certainly broke the safety harness I was on."

Quinn, who survived without a flotation vest, added: "I got a bit desperate toward the end but I am feeling pretty good now. I am getting back to normal. I have stopped most of the shaking." Quinn has been sailing since he was seven and ocean racing since the age of 19.

The 630 mile Sydney-to-Hobart has suffered one fatality. In 1984 bad weather led to a crewman's death when he was washed overboard and 104 boats retired from the 150 fleet.

Summer gloom, page 1

Fishing for complements that make the complete angler

Brian Clarke discovers

a plethora of tackle accessories lying in wait for the unsuspecting catalogue browser

A thoughtful American supplier of fishing tackle and accessories, now established in this country, has sent me his sales catalogues. They are things of wonder, illustrating a range of products that would fill several warehouses and have been compiled by someone whose stock of adjectives would fill several more.

Words such as rugged, durable, lightweight and unique are everywhere. Superlatives abound. Many items, I am impressed to see, are "world's best", a claim that must have required so much conscientious research and travel, such scrutiny of patents and testings in the field, that one marvels at the commitment involved.

Little expense has been spared in producing these brochures. They are printed on glossy paper, neatly laid out, and the captions are nearly as colourful as the photographs. The products themselves are, in the main, excellent. All of which makes it surprising that so curious a mistake should have crept in.

I refer, of course, to the fishing waistcoats, those little pocketed and pouched garments that are used by fly fishers for carrying tackle in and by *poseurs* for parading. The waistcoats shown cannot possibly be to scale. They look like ordinary waistcoats that might be worn by ordinary fly fishermen, yet any waistcoat carrying even half the items the catalogues suggest are essential, could only be worn by a weightlifter adapting the press-and-lift technique to stand up.

Even unladen, and of regular size, these waistcoats must be garments of substance. They have pockets that have been built for putting things into, and attachments that have been added for attaching things to. One memorable model had pockets both front and back, the rear pockets being reached by unzipping the garment at either side and rotating it.

There are fabric pockets, nylon pockets, transparent plastic pockets, mesh pockets. There are Velcro flaps, zip fasteners, press studs and buttons. There are loops for holding the rod so that the hands can be kept free, metal rings for clipping collapsible landing nets to, scores of little pieces where spring-loaded zingy objects with retractable cords can be attached, for attaching other things to — some of them, no doubt, likewise spring-laden.

None of this is to suggest, of course, that all of these pockets and appendages are unnecessary: indeed, no. Every last one is necessary because the catalogue makes it clear time and time over.

I speak here not only of the waterproofed knot-tying guide, an "instant streamside reference" for tying basic fishing knots (and where better, indeed to practise knot-tying than on the banks of an expensive chalk stream with the trout rising merrily all around?).

No, what I have in mind are the Non-Glare Super Forceps, the fisherman's multi-purpose tool with the black nickel oxide finish that "looks nice on your waistcoat and won't scare fish because of the reflections"; the Premium zingy thing with its "rugged stainless housing and clip that won't corrode"; the Never-Miss Strike Indicators to assist those who cannot detect the yank of a taking fish — perhaps because their sweater sleeves are held fast to their waistcoats, caught on some Velcro flap.

Naturally, in the plethora of desirable and essential kit, there have to be priorities and I am pleased, therefore, to see that safety and survival are given a responsibly high place.

For those rugged folk preparing to explore along the River Itchen near Winchester, there is the Thermometer/Compass Zipper Pull, that will attach to the tag on a waistcoat zip and comes with that so-easily-forgotten Wind Chill Chart on the back.

For those beating their way upriver to Stratford-upon-Avon — "don't be caught wet and cold without a way to start a life-saving fire", the catalogue wisely cautions — there is a waterproof lighter housed in a (presumably rugged) brushed aluminium case. And for anybody cut off from civilisation in the sparsely-populated mid-Thames Valley, there is a stainless steel and leather sloe gin set which "easily goes into a sports jacket or Barbour pocket".

Not everything in this catalogue is a matter of life and death, of course. Some things, as Bill Shankly would no doubt have said, are more important. I do not refer to trivia such as rods, reels, lines and places to go fishing. I mean seriously important things.

Like, for example, the World's Finest Kneeboot, "for those who spend a lot of time in their Kneeboots", and which are so cunningly designed that they make "on and off operations a dream".

I am talking about the Fly Fisherman's Tool, the essential nature and vital functions of which I need not dwell upon. And I am talking about the Head Net Hat, complete with its over-the-shoulder mesh for keeping midges at bay and which "wads up into practically no space".

Over the various editions, items have moved into these catalogues and items have moved out. I regret the disappearance of the World's Finest Tackle Bag, "hand-crafted and appointed in Latigo leather", which came complete with its solid oak accessory drawer and which cost — thanks, no doubt, to merciless cost-cutting and the shaving of margins — a trifling £250. But I am pleased to welcome the Portable Wellington Wardrobe with its "practical" — and goodness knows, we fishermen need to be practical — non-rusting fastener.

I could go on and on and possibly have. But there is surely no need to say more to justify my position, which is that I plan to buy the lot.

I may end up tripping over, and tangling my rods and nets, and be so festooned with zingy things and things hanging from zingy things, that they bounce and jostle around me like corks on a swagman's hat; but at least I shall have all the essentials, and a companion on the riverbank.

He will be the person wearing my back-up waistcoat and carrying my other tackle bag. His conversation, of course, may not be too hot, but you cannot have everything. Alas, all weightlifters seem to do is grunt.

Promotion prospects are boosted by Lovell

Reading 2
Stockport County 0

BY KEITH PIKE

AS MANCHESTER United are turning the Premiership race into a procession, so Reading are threatening to demoralise the field in the second division of the Endsleigh Insurance League. Victory over their nearest rivals, Stockport County, yesterday stretched Reading's lead at the top to seven points, and while comparisons with United may seem ludicrous they do not end there.

As Old Trafford is not always able to accommodate all those who wish to see United perform, so the gates at Elm Park were shut just before 3pm yesterday with 1,000 supporters left outside. The crowd of 11,240 was Reading's biggest for a league game for five years.

And, for 45 minutes at least, they were treated to a display of sumptuous skills on a stodgy surface. Building their attacks from the back with measured passing and moments of invention, and finishing with aplomb, Reading were very much in the United mould.

That it did not last was testimony to Stockport's considerably improved second-half display. Improvement, though, never threatened to turn into recovery, and Reading held on comfortably and deservedly to the three points secured by Stuart Lovell's two goals in two minutes just before the interval.

For Mark McGhee, the Reading manager, the victory was one of skill over strength. "We knew how Stockport would play, hitting their big man [the 6ft 7in Kevin Francis] with long balls and trying to feed off the scraps, and we were determined not to be sucked into a physical, long-ball game," McGhee said. "It was a clash of styles and for that reason it was important that we came out on top by showing people how football should be played."

Whether Reading will be able to continue their progress under McGhee as far as the Premiership is another matter. "The ground probably has a shelf life of four to five more years and we will probably have to search for a new one," he said. "But when I came here the club was in deep financial trouble and now we have turned the corner."

Elm Park has become something of a fortress. Reading are unbeaten there in 21 games, dating back to January 27, and yesterday's victory extended their unbeaten league run this season to 15 matches.

For once Quinn, one of the country's most prolific marksmen, was put in the shade. Lovell had managed only one of his ten goals this term in front of his own supporters, but the two he scored yesterday gave Reading due reward for their first-half supremacy.

He and Taylor had both wasted a couple of chances as Kerr, from full back, and Dillon kept Reading going forward. A controlled left-foot finish from Kerr's pass broke the deadlock three minutes before half-time, and almost immediately Lovell, set up this time by Taylor, ignored two well placed colleagues to beat Edwards with a precise shot into the far corner.

Hislop saved well from Preece and Beaumont missed a reasonable opening as Stockport staged their unconvincing rally but with Williams, a highly-rated young centre half, in dominant mood Reading held firm.

READING (4-4-2): S Hislop — M Gooding, J Hopkins, A Williams, D Kerr — S Taylor, P Parkinson, K Dillon, M Gilkes — J Quinn, S Lovell

STOCKPORT COUNTY (4-1-3-2): N Edwards — L Todd, D Miller, M Flynn, M Wallace — D Emerson (sub: M James, 45min) — C Beaumont, D Frain, P Ward — K Francis, A Preece

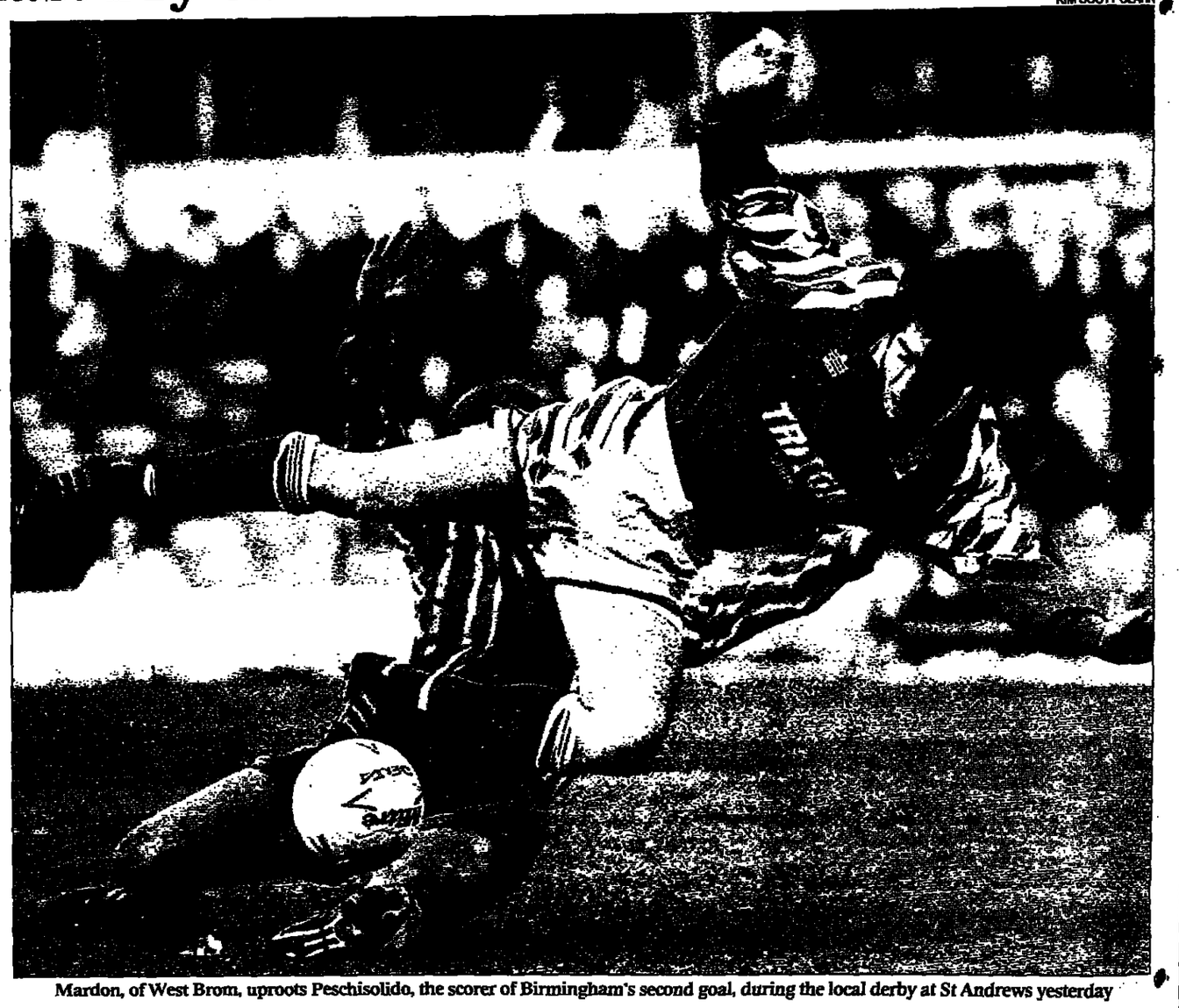
Referee: R Groves.

Steadfast Fry carries out successful intrusion

Simon Barnes watches

Birmingham emerge 2-0 victors from a tense Midlands battle

KIM SCOTT CLARK



Mardon, of West Brom, uproots Peschisolido, the scorer of Birmingham's second goal, during the local derby at St Andrews yesterday

SOME parts of England were covered in a clean white seasonal quilt yesterday, but they were having none of that in Birmingham. The train ride to the Midlands shows you a white country: just south of Tring a stag stood alone by the tracks: on a field argent a stag sable attired proper.

But on to Birmingham and heraldry more dismal. The snow is already slush when it falls up here; it may not be the Black Country proper but certainly it was the Dirty Grey Slush Country yesterday.

The field at Birmingham City wore its coat of slush yesterday morning but in England, if you allow the climate to dictate your pleasures you have precious few pleasures. They called for volunteers to unmake the Great Snowbed of Saint Andrews, and got 500 of them.

Dirty grey ramparts of slush surrounded the pitch, which by 3pm was a thoroughly acceptable shade of green. Climate must not be allowed to affect the meeting of Birmingham City and their neighbours from the Black Country proper, West Bromwich Albion.

And so, 15 minutes late at 3.15, because of the crush of crazed Midlanders agog for their derby — the crowd was only seven below capacity — the army liveried in vert and or of West Brom took on the azures of Birmingham City, and at the end of a rather crazed afternoon, Birmingham had won 2-0.

If one felt a bit of an outsider, coming to this private Midlanders affair from Somewhere Near Barnet, one could find comfort in the figure of Barry Fry, who recently made the same journey, taking an eccentric route via Southend, to become manager of Birmingham.

Fry is one of the Shakespearian clowns of the game, a man built like a cube with a flat cap resting on the top. After decades of decorating the margins of the game, he is here in the first division, close to centre stage, unreformed and unreconstructed.

He became one of the archetypal figures of the game when he picked himself as substitute (for Barnet, naturally) a week after suffering a heart attack. It is not the only Barry Fry story but it is the only one you need to know.

Play was about even in the first half but the goals were not. I wonder how many times Fry has contemplated that archetypal footballing event. Yesterday he was on the happy side of things; it might easily have gone the other way.

Half an hour of shared effort and shared chances concluded with a defensive muddle in the West Brom area, one mostly caused by the back-pass rule. Lange, the West Brom goalkeeper, brought down Wallace and Saville clouted the resulting penalty into the net.

Then followed the Peschisolido Ten Minutes. Peschisolido, flashy, impish and Canadian to boot, scored Birmingham's second, neatly touching away Wallace's equally neat pass from the byline after a running raid down the right flank.

A few minutes earlier, Peschisolido had been catapulted on to the slushy ramparts by his understandably but unacceptably distressed marker. Just before half-time, Peschisolido beat Mardon again, and passed the ball. Some little time later, Mardon took the leg from beneath him and Peschisolido left the game on a stretcher. It was a dreadful foul.

Peschisolido disappeared to have his leg X-rayed. The second half began, the pitch began to disintegrate, and so did 22 or so tempers.

West Brom found their best hope lay in long balls over or through the offside trap, and in the end, one of them worked. To an extent, Taylor got through all right, but Barnett carved him down. He gained a red card but conceded no penalty for his pains.

The occasion and the climate made it an afternoon of commitment and temper; of passionate slithering about on the skating-rink pitch. Local derbies are supposed to be like that, snow or no snow. Passion and slithers leave little room for finesse and if you try too much of that you end up like Peschisolido. Fry said afterwards that he was resigned to losing Peschisolido for the rest of the season. A broken shin is suspected. Fry was asked what he thought of the tackle. "What tackle? No, if I said what I really thought, I'd be in trouble."

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-3-3): R Steadman — D Barnett, C Whyte, R Dryden, G Ferrie — G Cooper, K Lowe, E McMinn — P Peschisolido (sub: C Shutt, 46 min), A Saville, D Wallace (sub: D Smith, 79).

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-3-3): A Lange — D Burgess, P Mardon, P Raven, S Lilwall — K O'Regan, I Hamilton, S Celdicott — L Ashcroft, S Garner (sub: K Donovan, 70), R Taylor.

Referee: K Hackett.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	70	80	good	varied	fair	fine	-5	28/12
(Good skiing on well-groomed pistes)								
AUSTRIA								
Igls	25	70	good	varied	worn	sun	-3	25/12
(Good skiing on all upper slopes)								
Kitzbühel	35	80	good	powder	good	fine	-5	27/12
(Picture postcard conditions with fresh snow)								
Schladming	15	100	good	powder	worn	fine	-3	27/12
(Upper slopes in excellent condition)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	120	210	good	varied	good	cloud	-7	26/12
(Good skiing in all sectors on squeaky snow)								
Avoriaz	130	160	good	powder	good	sun	-7	27/12
(Excellent skiing with plentiful powder available)								
Chamonix	120	340	good	good	fair	sun	-3	25/12
(Skiing on Grands Montets available and excellent)								
La Plagne	150	300	good	powder	good	sun	-8	25/12
(Excellent skiing everywhere; still cold and crisp)								
S Chevalier	60	150	good	heavy	good	fine	-1	25/12
(Good skiing conditions everywhere)								
Tignes	120	290	good	powder	good	sun	-14	26/12
(Excellent skiing on and off piste under sunny skies)								
Val d'Isère	120	290	good	powder	good	sun	-10	26/12
(Excellent skiing everywhere)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	70	350	good	crust	good	fine	-9	25/12
(Excellent skiing everywhere)								
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	60	60	good	varied	good	sun	-12	27/12
(Very good skiing in all areas)								
Mürren	45	105	good	powder	good	fine	-7	26/12
(Excellent skiing continues)								
Verbier	40	250	good	powder	good	fine	-4	26/12
(Excellent skiing continues)								
Zermatt	30	175	good	varied	fair	fine	-6	25/12
(Good skiing in all areas. Trifty now open)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

FA Carling Premiership

CHELSEA (1) 1 NEWCASTLE (0) 0
Stein 11 — 22,133

LIVERPOOL (1) 1 WIMBLEDON (1) 1
Scales 29 (og) — Fashanu 40
32,232

MAN CITY (1) 1 SOTON (1) 1
Phelan 29 — Dowie 26
24,712

WEST HAM (1) 1 TOTTENHAM (2) 3
Holmes 11 — Dozzell 34, Hazard 42, Anderton 77
20,787

POSTPONED: Coventry v Ipswich.

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Man Utd	22	8	4	0	25	10	8	1	1	19	8	53
2 Leeds	22	8	1	1	23	12	3	6	3	14	13	40
3 Blackburn	21	6	3	2	14	8	5	3	2	15	10	39
4 Arsenal	22	6	3	2	14	8	4	4	3	10	5	37
5 Newcastle	22	6	3	2	22	8	4	3	4	16	13	36
6 Norwich	20	3	3	2	5	5	6	4	2	28	17	34
7 QPR	21	6	3	1	21	11	4	1	6	15	17	34
8 Liverpool	22	7	8	2	21	12	2	3	5	13	15	33
9 A Villa	21	4	2	4	10	10	4	5	2	14	13	31
10 Sheff Wed	22	4	5	2	23	13	3	4	4	16	16	30
11 Tottenham	23	3	5	3	18	15	4	6	4	15	15	32
12 Ipswich	22	4	5	3	11	13	3	4	3	10	12	30
13 West Ham	23	5	3	4	12	13	3	3	5	8	16	30
14 Wimbledon	22	4	4	3	14	11	3	4	4	11	18	29
15 Coventry	21	4	5	2	10	9	2	4	4	13	16	27
16 Everton	22	4	1	6	10	17	3	3	5	10	11	25
17 Man City	22	2	5	4	12	15	2	3	6	8	13	20
18 Oldham	22	2	4	4	11	15	2	3	7	5	16	18
19 Chelsea	21	4	2	4	9	9	2	3	7	5	16	18
20 Sefton	21	4	1	5	15	17	1	2	9	8	16	18
21 Sheff Utd	22	3	5	3	11	12	0	4	7	7	21	16
22 Swindon	22	2	4	5	11	24	0	4	6	8	23	14

LEADING SCORERS: FA Carling Premiership: 25: Cole (Newcastle) 21: McCarthy (Oldham, 21 for Bradford) 20: Wright (Arsenal) 18: Scott (Swindon, 14 for Wycombe). 17: Shearer (Blackburn). 15: Stein (Chelsea, 13 for Stoke). 14: Fowler (Liverpool). 13: Cantona (Man Utd). 12: Sutton (Norwich); Ferdinand (QPR); Campbell (Arsenal) 11: Beardsley (Newcastle); Sheringham (Tottenham); Cottee (Everton) Endsleigh League: First division: 19: Colkmore (Notts Forest) 15: Armstrong (Crystal Palace); McGinlay (Bolton) 14: Bull (Wolves) 13: Taylor (WBA), Mendonca (Grimsby); Hendrie (Middlesbrough)

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division

BIRMINGHAM (2) 2 WEST BROM (0) 0
Saville 33 (pen), Peschisolido 41
Sent off: Barnett (Birmingham), 70

BRISTOL C (0) 1 NOTTM FOR (0) 4
Edwards 59 — Collymore 57, 73, Webb 69, Woan 88
20,725

DERBY (2) 3 LEICESTER (0) 2
Pembridge 16, Gabbiadini 36, Johnson 85 — Joachim 46, Roberts 78
17,372
Sent off: Coatsworth (Leicester), 72

PORTSMOUTH (0) 0 BOLTON (0) 0
14,276

SUNDERLAND (1) 2 MILLWALL (1) 1
Gray 10, Russell 55 — Roberts 35
19,283

WATFORD (1) 2 PETERBORO (0) 1
Furlong 43, 77 — Adcock 90
7,155

WOLVES (0) 2 OXFORD UTD (0) 1
Cook 85 (pen), Keen 86 — Elkins 80
25,908

POSTPONED: Notts County v Barnsley.

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 C Palace	22	7	2	1	20	8	6	2	4	22	16	43
2 Tranmere	23	8	3	2	24	12	4	3	4	11	12	41
3 Millwall	24	7	4	1	20	10	4	3	5	13	18	40
4 Charlton	22	7	2	2	17	6	4	3	4	10	14	38
5 Leicester	23	6	4	1	26	14	4	3	5	12	16	37
6 Southend	22	6	5	3	22	11	4	1	6	11	17	36
7 Portsmouth	24	6	4	2	17	10	3	5	4	11	14	36
8 Notts For	22	5	4	2	17	13	5	2	4	19	14	36
9 Derby	22	6	6	0	22	15	3	3	5	11	20	36
10 Stoke	22	8	0	3	18	11	3	3	5	16	24	36
11 Bristol C	24	6	5	3	17	13	4	3	5	12	16	36
12 Wolves	23	5	6	1	21	12	2	5	4	16	15	32
13 Bolton	23	4	5	2	15	11	3	4	5	13	16	30
14 Middlesbro	21	4	3	3	16	8	3	4	4	14	16	28
15 Notts Co	22	7	1	2	19	11	1	2	9	10	28	27
16 Sunderland	23	7	1	4	18	12	1	2	7	4	19	27
17 Birmingham	24	6	3	4	16	16	1	2	7	8	16	26
18 West Brom	23	5	6	4	12	14	1	2	7	9	17	24
19 Watford	23	5	4	3	20	19	1	2	6	12	23	24
20 Grimsby	21	3	7	1	13	8	2	4	5	14	18	22
21 Luton	23	5	0	5	16	12	1	4	7	9	18	22
22 Barnsley	23	2	2	8	10	20	3	4	4	17	21	21
23 Oxford	23	4	2	5	16	18	1	3	8	11	25	20
24 Peterboro	22	3	6	3	13	11	0	2	9	5	19	17

Second division

BLACKPOOL (0) 0 YORK (2) 5
4,501 — Barnes 9, 17, Cooper 68 Canham 76, Barrett 90

HULL (0) 1 HARTLEPOOL (0) 0
Windass 82 — 4,607

PLYMOUTH (1) 3 FULHAM (1) 1
Nugent 35 Dalton 79, Dawson 85 (og) — Morgan 18
15,609

READING (2) 2 STOCKPORT (0) 0
Lovell 41, 44 — 11,240

POSTPONED: Huddersfield v Cardiff; Rotherham v Bournemouth; Wrexham v Bristol Rovers.

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Reading	21	8	3	0	22	8	8	2	2	24	13	47
2 Plymouth	21	8	2	1	24	11	4	2	4	19	18	40
3 Stockport	21	8	0	2	25	8	4	4	3	11	12	40
4 Port Vale	21	6	3	1	24	10	4	3	4	14	14	36
5 Burnley	21	9	1	1	26	11	2	2	6	9	15	36
6 Hull	22	6	3	2	21	12	4	2	5	17	22	35
7 Bristol R	20	5	4	1	16	10	5	1	4	10	11	35
8 Brentford	21	5	3	2	12	7	4	4	3	15	11	34
9 Blackpool	22	8	1	2	24	10	2	2	6	13	20	33
10 Bradford	21	6	2	3	20	12	3	3	4	13	16	32
11 York	22	4	3	4	15	10	5	2	4	16	12	32
12 L Orient	21	5	4	2	17	12	3	2	5	10	16	30
13 Bournemth	20	5	3	2	15	13	3	3	3	8	9	30
14 Wrexham	21	6	3	1	25	14	1	3	7	8	21	27
15 Cambridge	21	4	3	3	12	10	3	3	5	16	21	27
16 Exeter	20	5	3	2	25	16	1	4	5	7	21	25
17 Cardiff	20	4	3	3	16	15	1	6	3	12	18	24
18 Huddersfld	21	3	3	4	9	13	3	3	5	14	16	24
19 Swansea	21	5	3	2	17	11	1	2	8	7	21	23
20 Rotherham	21	3	3	4	14	16	2	3	6	12	20	21
21 Preston	22	2	3	6	9	13	3	1	7	13	19	19
22 Brighton	21	2	5	4	8	12	2	2	6	10	21	19
23 Hartlepool	21	3	2	6	11	16	1	3	6	8	18	17
24 Barnet	21	1	1	8	10	18	1	2	8	12	31	9

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Bicester 5, Rayners Lane 1. Milton O, Abingdon 0, Tuffley 1, Swindon Supermarine 3. Postponed: Almondsbury v Cinderford; Banbury v Moreton; Headington Amateurs v Wantage; Kintbury v Fairford; North Leigh v Wotton Sports. Shortwood v Cirencester. First division: Bishopp Cleeve 6, Letcombo 2; Clanfield 0, Carterton 3; Didcot 0, Easington Sports 2; Highworth 2, Kidlington 2; Lambourn 0, Wallingford 0; Purton 4, Wootton Bassett 0. Yarnton 3, Ardley 2

Third division

CARLISLE (1) 1 CREWE (1) 2
Reeves 24 — Evans 33, 80
7,073

DONCASTER (0) 1 DARLINGTON (1) 3
Page 58 — Chapman 10, Ellison 62, Painter 89
2,194

SCARBORO (0) 0 COLCHESTER (0) 2
1,226 — McDonough 64, McGavin 89

SCUNTHORPE (1) 2 CHESTERFLD (2) 2
Carmichael 45 (pen), Mucci 60 — Hewitt 3, Norris 7
3,256

POSTPONED: Chester City v Gillingham; Mansfield Town v Hereford United; Wigan Athletic v Walsall; Wycombe Wanderers v Rochdale United.

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Crewe	20	9	1	0	26	11	4	3	3	16	17	43
2 Preston	20	7	2	2	22	13	4	2	3	20	19	37
3 Chester	19	5	3	2	12	6	6	1	4	24	16	36
4 Wycombe	20	8	3	2	17	11	4	6	1	16	16	36
5 Walsall	20	4	3	3	16	13	6	2	1	9	4	35
6 Shrewsbry	20	5	4	2	12	11	6	2	3	20	15	33
7 Bury	20	6	2	1	20	9	3	2	6	11	18	31
8 Scunthorpe	21	5	4	1	20	8	3	3	6	8	18	31
9 Rochdale	19	5	3	2	16	6	3	2	4	14	13	29
10 Torquay	20	2	8	1	18	16	4	2	3	15	14	28
11 Lincoln	19	5	2	3	16	15	3	2	4	15	16	28
12 Colchester	20	6	2	2	22	16	2	1	8	15	25	27
13 Cheserfld	19	6	1	3	16	11	2	2	5	12	22	27
14 Mansfield	20	5	1	3	12	12	2	2	5	4	12	19	27
15 Doncaster	20	5	1	4	17	16	3	1	6	9	15	26
16 Carlisle	21	3	3	4	17	15	3	4	4	12	10	25
17 Gillingham	20	5	4	2	18	11	1	2	6	9	17	24
18 Hereford	19	3	1	6	17	19	2	5	3	11	23	18
19 Darlington	21	3	3	5	16	17	1	3	6	10	19	18
20 Scarboro	20	2	0	8	9	18	3	3	4	12	16	18
21 Wigan	19	2	2	5	17	21	2	2	6	9	18	16
22 Northmptn	20	2	3	4	10	12	0	2	7	9	25	11

B & Q Scottish League

SECOND DIVISION: Postponed: Berwick v Queen of South.

DIADORA LEAGUE: First division: Leyton O, Barking 2.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Greenwich Borough 2, Bocking Town 1

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.45 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership
Arsenal v Sheffield Utd .....
Blackburn v Everton (all ticket) .....
Leeds v QPR .....
Norwich v Aston Villa .....
Oldham v Manchester Utd (all ticket) .....
Sheffield Wed v Swindon .....

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division
Charlton v Stoke .....
Crystal Palace v Southend .....
Luton v Grimsby .....
Middlesbrough v Tranmere .....

Second division
Barnet v Burnley (all ticket) .....
Brentford v Bradford .....
Cambridge Utd v Exeter .....
Port Vale v Leyton Orient .....
Swansea v Brighton (7.30) .....

Third division
Bury v Torquay (7.30) .....
Northampton v Preston (7.30) .....

BORD GAIS NATIONAL LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final: Shelbourne v St Patrick's Athletic (7.30).

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Mansfield v Rotherham (7.0)

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION (7.30): First division: Oxford Utd v QPR. Second division: Cheltenham v Swansea.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE CUP: Eccleshill Utd v Thackley (7.30).

DIADORA LEAGUE CUP: Third round: Chertsey Town v Worning (7.30).

RUGBY UNION

SWALEC CUP: Fourth round: Ystradgynlais v Glynneath (2.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP (7.30): Second division: London Crusaders v Swinton, Batley v Dewsbury.

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH ASOCIATION: Premier division: Billingham v Nottingham; Humberside v Peterborough, Bracknell v Cardiff; Basingstoke v Sheffield.

THE TIMES SPORTS SERVICE

RACING
Commentary
Call 0891 500 123
Results
Call 0891 100 123

FOOTBALL
Reports and scores from the FA Carling Premiership
Call 0839 555 562
Reports and scores from the Endsleigh Insurance and Scottish leagues
Call 0839 555 512

Calls cost 36p per min cheap rate. 48p per min at all other times

ALL BOX NO REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO:
BOX No....
BOX NO. DEPT
P.O. BOX 484
VIRGINIA STREET
WAPPING
LONDON
E1 9DD

هكذا من الأصل

gler

which came complete
olid oak accessory draw-
hich cost — thanks, no
merciless cost-cutting
having of margins — a
250. But I am pleased to
the Portable Wellington
e with its "practical" —
dness knows, we fisher-
d to be practical — non-
stener
d grow and on and
have But there is surely
to say more to justify my
which is that I plan to
ot
end up tripping over, and
my rods and nets, and be
ed with things and
ging from zingy things
a sponge and josile
my bike corks on a
To that at least I shall
the essentials, and a
on the riverbank.
the person wearing
tweed waistcoat and carry-
other tackle bag. His
dies, of course, may not
ot, but you cannot have
ly those all weightlifters
do it can.

usion

KIM SCOTT CUM

West Ham outclassed by Ardiles's stylish side in entertaining London derby

Hazard spurs Tottenham to success

West Ham United.....1
Tottenham Hotspur.....3

BY ANDREW LONGMORE

UPTON Park has always been a breeding ground for nostalgia. Old pictures line the walls, famous faces lurk round every corner. Trevor Brooking and Geoff Hurst were two of the Academy graduates on show yesterday, but even those loyal West Ham United supporters had to admit that their team was outpassed and outpaced by an inspired Tottenham side, who were applauded off the pitch not just by their own supporters but by the home crowd as well.

They know good football when they see it here and, though derbies are not noted for their generosity of spirit, the appreciation was robust and comforting.

Even Osvaldo Ardiles was moved to peals of praise for his side's second win in their last 13 games. "Quite beautiful stuff," he said. "The best possible Christmas present." The Tottenham manager was most pleased with his defence, which had conceded six goals in the previous two games, but singled out his old accomplice, Micky Hazard, for special mention. "He has done more than I asked of him," Ardiles said. "He is capable of making a team play on his own."

Recognising the talent of a player after his own heart, Ardiles has followed Hazard throughout a chequered career, playing in the same side as him at Tottenham, bringing him first from Portsmouth to Swindon and then back to White Hart Lane for only £50,000. Ardiles, though, had doubted whether the 33-year-old would have the legs to survive two fast games in two days, but his suggestion of a place on the substitutes' bench was dismissed by Hazard, who became increasingly influential as the game wore on.

As usual, Hazard was at the heart of much that was good in the game *and* what little was bad. But he more than repaid Ardiles's faith, pulling Tottenham back into the contest when they were in danger of being overwhelmed. With that impish stride, he hooked home the second goal and released Anderton for the conclusive third. Tottenham finishing the match as if involved in nothing more taxing than an exhibition.

Yet, for the first 20 minutes, it had all looked so promising for the revitalised West Ham, as Bishop and Butler dominated the midfield and Hazard took time to find his range. When Breacker's long ball found Holmes, who had plenty of time to put West Ham ahead, it seemed Tottenham's suicidal tendency in defence had surfaced once more. West Ham supporters rubbed their hands in anticipation of more to come.

Instead, their own defence dissolved at a corner, which was headed on by Sedgley and poked home at the second attempt by Dozzell. Just before half-time, Hazard played a neat one-two with Barmby before driving home a rising shot from 15 yards.

Not surprisingly, the pace, akin to a five-a-side, slackened a fraction in the second half and tempers rose. Hazard, as ever, was in the thick of the action, lashing out at Burrows without making contact or invoking punishment, Butler clattered poor Caskey, who emerged unscathed from several thundering challenges, and Calderwood followed Butler into the book.

West Ham continued to press, but were unable to find Chapman's head with a stream of crosses. Ironically, their best chance proved merely the prelude to their downfall. In the 77th minute, Breacker's goalbound volley was blocked by Morley's back. Tottenham recoiled, sprung back and, a moment later, Anderton, who had just watched an instinctive 40-yard lob sail narrowly over the bar with Miklosko floundering, turned past Gale to thump home Tottenham's third. Indeed, had Campbell, who replaced Barmby, not sidefooted wide from 10 yards with the goal open before him, West Ham's embarrassment would have been much greater.

"They deserve alot of credit," Billy Bonds, the West Hammanager, said. "They came at us and had a go." He, too, thought Hazard was the decisive factor in his side's defeat. "He is a terrific little footballer," Bonds said. "But I thought the whole game was good to watch." Quite what comes next for Tottenham, not even Ardiles knows. His team live on a knife-edge between dazzling attack and desperate defence, switching one to the other in the blink of an eye. Sometimes they use three passes where one will do, but nobodby can argue with their style or entertainment value.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2): L Miklosko — T Breacker, S Potts, A Gale, D Burrows — M Marsh, P Butler, I Bishop, M Holmes (sub: S Jones, 70min) — T Morley, L Chapman. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: (4-1-3-2): E Thorpe — D Kerslake, C Calderwood, S Sedgley, J Edinburgh — V Samways — D Caskey, M Hazard, D Anderton — N Barmby (sub: S Campbell, 71), J Dozzell
Referee: G Ashby (Worcester).

Dozzell, the Tottenham forward, attempts to impose himself on proceedings against West Ham at Upton Park yesterday. Photograph: Simon Walker

City make most of resources to thwart Dowie

Manchester City.....1
Southampton.....1

BY PETER BALL

IT HAS been a good Christmas for Ian Dowie. After previously scoring only two goals all season, he has doubled his total in less than 24 hours, helping to bring Southampton four FA Carling Premiership points in the process. They were not enough to keep Southampton out of the bottom three, however, the draw yesterday leaving them in twentieth place as Chelsea leapt above them by beating Newcastle United.

Then again, the result left City also looking nervously over their shoulders as their desperate run reached only one win in the last 13 matches: "The way things are going, that's a point won," Brian Horton confessed afterwards. "We're unbeaten over Christmas and that's about the best run since I came."

Yet things might be looking up, with Francis Lee's consortium talking about an injection of £64 million to improve the Maine Road stadium and its team. It is tempting to suggest that the team needs all of it, but the injury list makes such a judgment look a bit harsh.

Yesterday, City's reduced and much-reshuffled team — with David Rocastle making his debut in a line-up containing four central defenders and with Phelan, a full back, playing wide on the left — showed commendable spirit to come back after Dowie had given Southampton the lead. By the end, City might even have won, Beasant proving the busier goalkeeper.

"When you go one down, heads can go down, but we showed character coming back," Horton said. "I think David Rocastle helped in that respect, because he's a good player and he wants the ball."

Playing in central midfield, Rocastle quickly won the approval of the crowd with an aggressive push on Adams when the Southampton player protested about a tackle. Thereafter, he had a quietly satisfactory game rather than a heroic one, although Leeds supporters will be interested to hear that he lasted the full 90 minutes.

Rocastle: assured

Nevertheless, City needed their substitutes, notably when Griffiths, who is rapidly becoming a marked man, received a badly bruised ankle after only only 16 minutes and did not return after the interval. With Griffiths therefore making only a minimal contribution, a heavy load fell on Vonk and Phelan, who were pressed into service as attackers. Vonk's physical presence gave Southampton problems from the start, the big Dutchman looking City's most likely scorer in the early stages.

Southampton, though, took the lead after 25 minutes with a move that belied their lowly position in the league. Adams and Allen released Kenna, who took on Brightwell and crossed perfectly for Dowie to head home from six yards.

In recent weeks, that might have been that, but with the crowd in good humour at the prospect of the approaching boardroom takeover and giving loud vocal support instead of the recent hostility, City responded almost immediately. Again Vonk was involved, his presence distracting the defence as Edghill's cross came in, and the ball ran to Phelan, who marked his move forward with a low shot across Beasant for his first league goal for the club.

"I like playing up there," Phelan said. "I'm no Ryan Giggs or Lee Sharpe, but I enjoy haring about." He went on to hare about with increasing effect and City might have won.

MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2) : A Coton — R Edghill, A Kernaghan, K Curle, D Brightwell — M Sheron, D Rocastle, S Lomas (sub: K Ingebrigtsen, 77min), T Phelan — C Griffiths (sub: F Simpson, 45), M Vonk.
SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2) : D Beasant — J Kenna, S Wood, K Moore, F Benali — P Allen, N Maddison, T Widdrington, M Adams — M Le Tissier (sub: F Bennett, 80), I Dowie.
Referee: A Wilkie.

Wimbledon ride luck at Anfield

Liverpool.....1
Wimbledon.....1

BY OLIVER HOLT

LIVERPOOL'S recent inability to conquer Wimbledon has become a symbol of their slide away from the heights of footballing success and yesterday their status as one of the Premiership's inconsistent also-rans was confirmed when the south London club extended its unbeaten run against the Merseysiders to eight games.

Ever since Liverpool's loss to Wimbledon in the 1988 FA Cup final, meetings between the two have assumed almost talismanic proportions and the wild cheers from the Kop that greeted every successful tackle on Fashanu, every mistake from Jones, was evidence of the importance the home supporters attached to the game.

But their fervour turned to despair in the second half when, despite all their pressure, Liverpool could not retake their first-half lead which had been wiped out by a fortuitous Fashanu equaliser.

"It will take faith in ourselves to win today" Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager, said before the kick-off. His team appeared to have the faith, but not the penetration or the luck.

In the first 30 minutes though, Liverpool's domination was such that it seemed they were bound to erase the memories of their Coca-Cola Cup defeat at Selhurst Park on penalties a fortnight ago.

Redknapp and Clough looked composed in midfield,

Scales: own goal

Ruddock determined in defence, Fowler vibrant in attack. Fashanu, and Wimbledon by contrast, looked lacklustre, drained rather than liberated by their captain's exoneration in the Mabbutt affair. The home side nearly went ahead in the fifth minute when Clough's clever through-ball found McManaman and his shot was tipped over by Segers.

McManaman was to blame two minutes later when he wasted Fowler's intelligent pull back by screwing his shot well wide from 15 yards out.

This at least was not the Liverpool of the scoreless draw with Sheffield United at Bramall Lane on Sunday, when their defence was torn apart by a ponderous but profligate attack. Nicol's inclusion in place of Dicks seemed to reassure Wright and Ruddock and Matteo's pace in midfield gave their forward movements more urgency.

Rush, fighting for his place in the team after being substituted on Sunday, created the opening goal. Acting as provider rather than predator these days, he took Redknapp's pass on the edge of the area in the 27th minute and drove in a low cross which Scales hammered into the roof of his own net as he tried to hack it away.

When Segers was forced to block from Nicol, two minutes later, and then save a Rush drive with his outstretched boot in the 33rd minute, it seemed the jinx was about to be broken.

Five minutes before half-time, however, Fashanu lurched past a static defence, advanced on Grobbelaar and after his first shot had been blocked by the goalkeeper, he nonchalantly side-footed home.

Try as they might, Liverpool could not score in the second half, and will have to wait until April for revenge.

Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, was delighted with the result. "We rode our luck a little bit but we had our share of chances ourselves. Segers was magnificent today.

"They are definitely my luckiest team. But we are only three points behind them now and we have a game in hand. That shows you how much we have improved."

Either that, or an indication of the depth of Liverpool's decline.

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): B Grobbelaar — R Jones, M Wright, N Ruddock, S Nicol (sub: M Walters, 78min) — N Clough, J Redknapp, S McManaman, D Matteo — I Rush, R Fowler.
WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): H Segers — W Barton, S Fitzgerald, J Scales, B McAllister (sub: A Clarke, 67) — V Jones, R Earle, P Fear, N Ardley — J Fashanu, D Holdsworth.
Referee: K Cooper (Pontypridd).

Johnson conjures up goal to deny spirited Leicester

Derby County.....3
Leicester City.....2

BY DENNIS SHAW

NEITHER Derby County nor Leicester City will dispute the popular theory that a season's fortunes can hinge significantly on the Christmas holiday fixture programme. In the space of 24 hours, Derby improved their promotion prospects by six points while Leicester slipped further back by dropping five.

An impassioned east Midland derby match at the Baseball Ground yesterday saw County take a two-goal lead, drift back to 2-2 as Leicester rallied, and then complete their second victory in two days with a late winner by Johnson. The standing ovation afforded at the end illustrated the enjoyment of a crowd of 17,372.

As Derby have climbed the table, Leicester's record is only one win in nine games since they went top after beating Southend on November 6.

After Leicester had three times surrendered the lead in a 4-4 draw against Watford at Filbert Street on Monday, Brian Little, the manager, said his side had been responsible for seven of the eight goals. Here again he had cause to lament a suspect defence. That and the loss of the defender, Coatsworth, sent off in the 72nd minute, undermined any hopes of them stopping Derby's march.

The competitive nature of the tussle was set in the opening four minutes when Williams and Short were cautioned for crunching tackles.

Having established the physical guidelines, the game then conjured up a variety of memorable moments.

Derby's opening goal from Mark Pembridge in the sixteenth minute was a splendid example, though his opportunity was supplied by an assist from the Leicester defender, Lewis. As Harkes's left-wing centre fell perfectly for Pembridge, he volleyed the ball into the net from 20 yards.

Coatsworth quickly left his mark on Harkes with his first bookable offence. When he floored Johnson, he had to go.

The darting runs of Gabbiadini, who had endured a sleepless night while his wife gave birth to a son, were always a problem for Leicester and when Williams fed him a pass down the left in the 38th minute, he moved in smoothly to score with a cross-shot.

Leicester were down but not out. Just before the interval Joachim replaced the injured Ormondroyd and, in the first 20 seconds of the second half, the newcomer collected Oldfield's quickly-taken free kick to prod it over the line.

Gabbiadini and Pembridge fired shots against the Leicester woodwork, but even when down to ten men the battling spirit of the visitors shone through, and Roberts collected an equaliser with 12 minutes left. But City's revival was denied by Johnson, who gathered a through-ball from Gabbiadini to place it wide of Ward.

DERBY COUNTY (4-4-2): M Taylor; G Charles, C Short, D Wassell, M Forsyth; M Pembridge, M Kuhl, P Williams, J Harkes; M Gabbiadini (sub: C Ramage, 87min), T Johnson.
LEICESTER CITY (4-4-2): G Ward; G Coatsworth, S Grayson, C Hill, N Lewis; D Oldfield, S Agnew, S Thompson, I Ormondroyd (sub: J Joachim 41); I Roberts, D Speedie
Referee: R Hart.

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE

		Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
1	Manchester Utd	22	53	+26	DWDWD
2	Leeds	22	40	+12	WWLWD
3	Blackburn	21	39	+11	LWWWD
4	Arsenal	22	37	+11	LDWLW
5	Newcastle	22	36	+17	WDWDL
6	Norwich	20	34	+11	LDWLW
7	QPR	21	34	+8	DDLWW
8	Liverpool	22	33	+7	WDDDD
9	Aston Villa	21	31	+1	LDDLL
10	Sheffield Wed	22	30	+10	WDLWW
11	Tottenham	23	30	+5	DWDLW
12	Ipswich	22	30	-4	DWDWD
13	West Ham	23	30	-9	LWLDL
14	Wimbledon	22	29	-4	LWWLD
15	Coventry	20	28	-2	LWLDW
16	Everton	22	25	-8	WLDLL
17	Manchester City	22	20	-8	LWLLD
18	Oldham	22	19	-18	DWLDL
19	Chelsea	21	18	-11	LLDLW
20	Southampton	23	18	-12	LLLWD
21	Sheffield Utd	22	18	-15	DWDLD
22	Swindon	22	14	-28	DLDWL

Change ▲ Up — Stayed the same — Down

Buxton inspires hope of Sunderland revival

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

OPTIMISM has been in short supply at Roker Park throughout 1993, but it came flooding back yesterday after their 2-1 win over Millwall. The crowd of 19,283 dispersed into a raw Wearside evening discussing Sunderland's chances of making the Endsleigh Insurance League first division playoffs.

Mid-table they may be, but Mick Buxton's team is unbeaten for four matches, winning three and conceding just one goal in the process. It is all so very different from a few weeks ago, when Buxton took over from Terry Butcher as Sunderland slipped into the relegation zone.

No new players have been recruited, but Buxton has managed to motivate his squad, organise a previously porous defence and impose a shape on the side, so much so that even though Sunderland are some way short of looking promotion contenders, they were still too good for Millwall. Indeed, they were ahead after just ten minutes when Phil Gray headed home Ferguson's centre after Millwall failed to clear a corner.

Both Gray and Ferguson have blossomed since Buxton's appointment after disappointing under Butcher. A £650,000 close-season purchase from Heart of Midlothian, Ferguson, with a reputation as a playmaker, had been so disappointing that Butcher's failure to bring the best out of him and Gray, an £800,000 acquisition from Luton Town, probably cost the former England captain his job. Lately, however, Ferguson's workrate has increased considerably and his persistence down the left won Sunderland that corner which preceded Gray's goal.

Defensively, Millwall were disappointing, clearly missing Cooper, the central defender they sold to Nottingham Forest for £1.8 million earlier this year. If they fail to go up, Millwall will surely struggle to retain Rae too, who ran the midfield for long periods and created the 38th-minute equaliser for Roberts, struck low from 22 yards. Yet Sunderland were not to be denied and Russell, only 19, scored his first league goal to give them the points after coming on as a first-half substitute.

While Millwall slipped up, Forest confirmed their emergence as promotion contenders with a 4-1 demolition of Bristol City as Ashton Gate. Collymore, predictably, was Forest's matchwinner, crowning an outstanding display with two goals. Webb and Woan also scored for the visitors.

Afterwards, Frank Clark, the Forest manager, predicted an international future for Collymore, although not, as Jack Charlton is reported to be hoping, for Ireland in the World Cup finals: "Stan assures me his closest ties with Ireland are that he has drunk the odd pint of Guinness," Clark said, "but he has all the attributes to play at the very top. I've never seen anyone who can run with the ball quicker and beat opponents at the same time."

While Portsmouth drew 0-0 with Bolton Wanderers at Fratton Park, Wolverhampton Wanderers, arguably the division's greatest under-achievers, kept just in touch with the leading group with a fortunate 2-1 defeat of Oxford United. After going behind to an eightieth-minute goal by Elliott, Cook equalised with a penalty five minutes from time before Keen forced home a controversial winner.

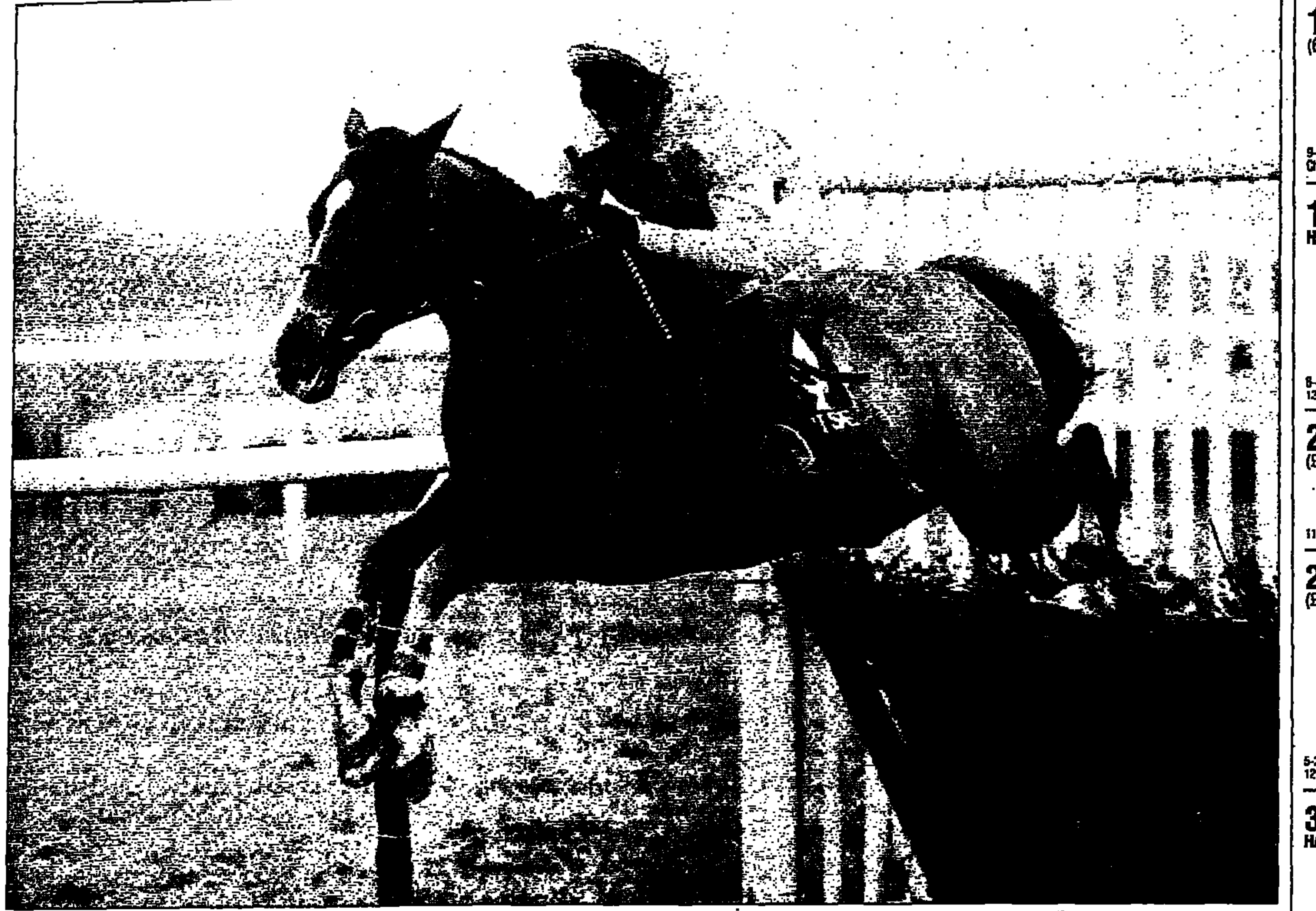
Terry Yorath's future as manager of Wales was looking increasingly doubtful last night after the Football Association of Wales (FAW) issued notice of the termination of his contract in the New Year. There was also increased speculation that talks had been held about the job between the FAW and Terry Venables, the former Tottenham Hotspur manager and a front-runner for the vacant England manager's post.

Yorath had demanded a 33 per cent pay increase on his existing annual salary of £45,000 to renew his contract, but that was rejected by the FAW. Yorath is understood to be willing to compromise on that figure.

Cheltenham clues hard to find as fancied runners disappoint

Muse justifies Elsworth's faith

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Muse, ridden by Mark Richards, takes the final flight on the way to winning the Bonusprint Christmas Hurdle at Kempton

By Julian Muscat

A GOLDEN opportunity for either Halkopous or King Credo to impose themselves on the Champion Hurdle slipped away tamely at Kempton yesterday when they were routed by a back-to-form Muse, ridden by Mark Richards, in the Bonusprint Christmas Hurdle.

So badly did the two main protagonists perform that it was High Baron, the 33-1 outsider, who chased Muse home at a respectful five lengths. Halkopous and King Credo filled the last two places in the five-runner field.

Regulars in the betting ring would have easily detected the lack of confidence behind King Credo, who finished fourth in last season's Champion Hurdle. The Steve Woodman-trained runner drifted from an opening 6-4 out to 11-4, with some bookmakers so anxious to take money for King Credo that 3-1 was freely shouted at the off.

In truth, King Credo has never sparkled on ground worse than good. A mistake at the third hurdle further hindered his cause, yet that alone could not entirely explain why the eight-year-old was virtually pulled up after he jumped the last hopelessly adrift.

"You can blame it all on the ground unless something turns up when he gets home," a philosophical Woodman said afterwards. "He is a good actioned horse and we will keep him to hurdles with the Champion still the target."

Halkopous, for his part, never travelled with the fluency for which he is renowned. So much so his jockey, Graham McCourt, was at a loss to explain the horse's lacklustre performance, even though the lifeless ground was against him. "It is very disappointing, very difficult to say what went wrong," McCourt said.

"My horse and King Credo were the first two beaten. Going into the race I thought they stood head and shoulders above the others, but Halkopous never felt as he did at Cheltenham last time when he ran a cracking race."

Indeed he did. Runner-up to his stable companion, Staunch Friend, Halkopous had Muse a length behind him in third on that occasion. If the betting ring trumpeted the likely poor showing of King Credo, it also highlighted the confidence connections had in Muse, a well-backed 3-1 chance. "I anticipated the result but not how it would materialise," Elsworth said of his habitual front-runner.

"High Baron carried us all the way round and it turned into a real fight over the last three-quarters of a mile. It was gruelling but he takes a lot of passing when he gets ahead."

Elsworth was quick to remind the public of Oh So Risky's Champion Hurdle claims. He said that Oh So Risky, a winner in group three company on the Flat in France this year, will probably reappear in the Irish Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown next month. Muse, meanwhile will attempt to endorse his Cheltenham prospects in the Wyco Hurdle there.

The result clearly baffled Mike Dillon, the Ladbrokes representative, who quoted odds which reflected the confusion over the destination of the hurdling crown. Granville Again, Carobee and Staunch Friend are 10-1 joint favourites, with Muse bracketed at 16-1.

Kim Bailey further consolidated a healthy season for his Lambourn stable with a lucrative double through San Lorenzo and Richville, who was helped by the fall, three from home, of Antonin.

It was refreshing to hear Bailey pay tribute to his staff after Richville's victory. "They deserve a lot of the credit for this as they have had some of the horses out twice a day over Christmas" he said.

RICHARD EVANS

NAP: ISLAND JEWEL
(3.50 Plumpton)
Next best: Cats Run
(3.40 Stratford)

PLUMPTON

THUNDERER
1.20 Galaxy High. 1.50 Manhattan Boy. 2.20 Loch Blue. 2.50 Simply. 3.20 Unique New York. 3.50 Island Jewel.

GOING: HEAVY (7.30AM INSPECTION)

1.20 OFFHAM NOVICES CHASE (£2,007: 2m) (6 runners)

1 0-02 DAWN CHANCE 8 R Hodges 7-11-4 G McCourt
2 3023 GALAXY HIGH 2 (B,D,BF,G,S) N Henderson 6-11-4 M A Fitzgerald
3 P-P6 GENERAL BRANDY 35 J Gifford 7-11-4 P Hide (3)
4 00/P HIGH HAGBERG 15 J Jenkins 7-11-4 Mrs K Hills
5 82/F MISAAFF 27 (B) N Walker 10-11-4 R Marley
6 4262 PRIVATE JET 13 J Ffitch-Heyes 4-10-7 A Thornton (3)

9-4 Galaxy High, 5-2 Misaaff, 4-1 General Brandy, 11-2 Private Jet, 8-1 Dawn Chance, 16-1 High Hagberg.

1.50 ST JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE CLAIMING HURDLE (£1,910: 2m 4f) (8)

1 26-2 NAZZARO 71 W G M Turner 4-11-5 R Darke (7)
2 /RP- GO SOUTH 27F (D,F,G) J Jenkins 9-11-4 G McCourt
3 -03F FEARSOME 21 (S) K Bishop 7-11-0 M A Fitzgerald
4 -4P0 LAABAS 14 (B,G) J Long 10-11-0 R Rowell
5 0000 BRORA ROSE 14 (S) P Redford 5-10-9 I Shoemark
6 050/ CHRISTIAN SOLDIER 614 P McEntee 6-10-8 W Elderfield
7 23F2 MANHATTAN BOY 22 (CD,F,G,S) J Ffitch-Heyes 11-10-8 A Thornton (3)
8 -6PP SOLENT LAD 22 (B,F,G,S) B Stevens 10-10-8 M Stevens

6-4 Manhattan Boy, 9-4 Fearsome, 100-30 Laabas, 5-1 Go South, 6-1 Nazzaro, 12-1 Brora Rose, 20-1 others.

2.20 CLAYTON HANDICAP CHASE (£2,364: 3m 1f 110yd) (4)

1 25-0 FALSE ECONOMY 88 (D,G,S) J Edwards 8-12-0 M A Fitzgerald
2 P-15 LOCH BLUE 22 (BF,G,S) S Dow 11-11-8 A Dicken (5)
3 4-6F HOMME D'AFFAIRE 44 (F,G,S) R O'Sullivan 10-11-3 D O'Sullivan
4 13-P BETTY HAYES 93 (D,BF,F,S) R Alner 9-11-0 P Carey (7)

11-8 Homme D'Affaire, 9-4 False Economy, 4-1 Betty Hayes, 5-1 Loch Blue.

2.50 BOLNEY NOVICES HURDLE (£1,480: 2m 1f) (11)

1 24 BALLET ROYAL 13 (BF) G Harwood 4-10-12 M Perrett
2 CRASH BANG WALLOP 942F P McEntee 5-10-12 L O'Hare (7)
3 23-4 GOLD GLEN 22 (B) P Mulon 5-10-12 A Thornton (3)
4 KITSBEL 1192F T McGovern 5-10-12 M Hourigan
5 2P-2 KOBYRUN 22 D Grissell 7-10-12 Peter Hobbs
6 0P-P LETTS GREEN 16 R Curtis 5-10-12 D Morris
7 44-0 PER QUOD 48 N Henderson 8-10-12 M A Fitzgerald
8 2242 SIMPLY 22 (BF) R Akehurst 4-10-12 G McCourt
9 4/00 TREMEIRCHION 55 T O'Mahony 7-10-12 E Murphy
10 - EMERALD WATERS 913F N Walker 6-10-7 R Marley
11 3004 MAKING TIME 13 G Humphrey 6-10-7 A Tory

5-2 Kobyrun, 11-4 Ballet Royal, 7-2 Simply, 5-1 Per Quod, 7-1 Gold Glen, 12-1 Emerald Waters, Making Time, 16-1 others.

3.20 BRYAN ROBINSON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (£2,196: 2m) (4)

1 32-3 NATHIR 22 (D,S) P Butler 7-12-0 M Hourigan
2 4324 KISU KALI 18 (CD,F,G,S) J Ffitch-Heyes 6-11-11 A Thornton
3 3114 COTAPAXI 21 (CD,F,G) R Hodges 8-11-10 D Meredith
4 41/3 UNIQUE NEW YORK 29 (V,CD,B,S) S Woodman 10-11-5 Guy Lewis

13-8 Nathir, 11-4 Cotapaxi, Kisu Kali, 3-1 Unique New York.

3.50 LEWES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,128: 2m 4f) (8)

1 S-44 MR MATT 42 (CD,S) D Grissell 5-11-10 Peter Hobbs
2 0-01 HAPPY HORSE 15 (S) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 6-10-12 A Tory
3 -422 ISLAND JEWEL 14 (S) J Bosley 5-10-8 M Bosley
4 15-3 BRIGHTLING BOY 15 (F,G) D Grissell 8-10-3 M Hourigan
5 4402 AMPHIGORY 18 (F) P Radford 5-10-3 D Matthews (5)
6 0-P0 MARCH ABOVE 15 (B,G) B Stevens 7-10-0 M Stevens
7 400- RADAR KNIGHT 392 P McEntee 5-10-0 L O'Hare (7)
8 045- VILLA PARK 281 (F,S) G Wareham 11-10-0 M Perrett

2-1 Happy Horse, 7-2 Mr Matt, 4-1 Island Jewel, 6-1 Amphigory, 7-1 Brightling Boy, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Edwards, 3 winners from 7 runners, 42.9%; R Akehurst, 15 from 48, 31.3%; R Alner, 3 from 10, 30.0%; G Harwood, 5 from 23, 21.7%; D Grissell, 11 from 56, 19.6%; J Jenkins, 15 from 77, 19.5%.

JOCKEYS: E Murphy, 4 winners from 19 rides, 21.1%; M Perrett, 13 from 63, 20.6%; Peter Hobbs, 5 from 35, 14.3%; A Tory, 6 from 47, 12.8%; D O'Sullivan, 6 from 49, 12.2%. (Only qualifiers)

☐ Party Politics was withdrawn from the Coral Welsh National, at Chepstow, yesterday after sustaining an injury overnight. Trainer Nick Gaselee said: "I feared the worst when we found him at six o'clock this morning unable to put his foot on the ground. He has damaged his near-hind hock and was badly lame. But I've had an X-ray done and luckily there is no fracture."

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
12.45 Bowland Girl. 1.15 Rather Sharp. 1.45 Persian Sword. 2.15 Zamil. 2.45 Quick Silver Boy. 3.15 Ragtime Cowboy Joe.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.15 THE TARTAN SPARTAN.

GOING: HEAVY (CHASE COURSE) STANDARD (HDLES) SIS

12.45 VICTORIAN NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,604: 2m) (10 runners)

1 3120 BUSMAN 7 (S) J O'Shea 4-12-0 R Davis (3) 84
2 P30P MAKE A LINE 50 S Sherwood 5-11-4 P McLoughlin (7) 82
3 4568 NOEL 7 (B) J O'Shea 4-11-2 K Jones 86
4 0521 LAFANTA 7 (C,G) J Wade 4-10-12 (7ex) S Wynne (3) 80
5 0P-5 BOWLAND GIRL 12 R Hollinshead 4-10-10 D Gallagher 96
6 1613 GREEN'S SEAGO 11F (CD,G) J Harris 5-10-4 A Procter (5) –
7 /5F PYRO PENNANT 26 D Burchell 8-10-3 Chris Webb (7) 81
8 0005 HULLO MARY DOLL 23 S Mellor 4-10-3 W Marston ■
9 0-6P ROMANY SPLIT 11 D Nicholson 8-10-1 B Dalton –
10 PP50 MATUSADONA 18 J Harris 6-10-0

9-4 Lafanta, 3-1 Green's Seago, 6-1 Busman, Hullo Mary Doll, 8-1 Bowland Girl, 10-1 Make A Line, Noel, 16-1 Romany Split, 20-1 Pyro Pennant, 33-1 Matusadona.

1.15 MEDIEVAL CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS CLAIMING CHASE (£1,641: 2m) (5)

1 5533 SILVER HAZE 13 (D,F,S) J Wade 9-11-1 R Greene 87
2 /P6 LADY KHADIJA 51 G Kelly 7-10-13 C Woodall (5) –
3 13U- JAMES MY BOY 342 (G,S) W Clay 13-10-12 R Davis ■
4 -530 RATHER SHARP 29 (D,S) C Popham 7-10-12 R Farrant 82
5 -006 NOBBY 28 (B) B Beasley 7-10-6 A Lamach –

11-10 Silver Haze, 6-4 James My Boy, 9-2 Rather Sharp, 16-1 Nobby, 50-1 Lady Khadija.

1.45 BRITISH COAL NOVICES CHASE (£1,786: 2m 4f 110yd) (6)

1 F113 PERSIAN SWORD 21 (BF,S) D Nicholson 7-11-12 W Marston ■
2 2/0- MAC RAMBLER 383 N Sycroft 6-11-2 R Bantley –
3 06-4 MANDIKA 47 (G,S) M Jarvis 5-11-2 Richard Guest 94
4 /30- MARIDADI 351 M Wilkinson 7-11-2 P Ward (7) –
5 PP/ RAIDO 695 (F) B Cambidge 8-11-2 Gary Lyons –
6 2-25 RUSSINSKY 25 G Bravery 6-10-11 R J Beggan –

4-6 Persian Sword, 7-2 Mandika, 5-1 Russinsky, 8-1 Maridadi, 16-1 Mac Rambler, 50-1 Raido.

2.15 GEORGIAN HANDICAP CHASE (£1,988: 3m 110yd) (6)

1 P-56 MATERIAL GIRL 29 (G,S) C Egerton 7-11-10 A Procter (5) 87
2 1433 ZAMIL 11 (G,S) K Burke 8-11-8 D Gallagher 92
3 F/0- TRUBLION 422 (B,S) Mrs S Smith 8-10-13 Richard Guest –
4 -353 FUNNY OLD GAME 22 (D,S) D McCune 6-10-11 R Davis (3) 86
5 3-51 THE TARTAN SPARTAN 11 (F,S) M Wilkinson 9-10-10 P Ward (7) ■
6 0-50 GUILDWAY 25 (F,G) N Twiston-Davies 10-10-8 Mr M Rimell (7) 84

7-4 Zamil, 5-2 The Tartan Spartan, 3-1 Funny Old Game, 7-1 Guildway, 8-1 Material Girl, 25-1 Trublion.

2.45 ELIZABETHAN JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£1,674: 2m) (12)

1 522 BAYRAK 26 (BF) C Egerton 10-10 J Railton 87
2 4 ELECTROLYTE 15F (V) B Palling 10-10 R Greene –
3 GREEN MILL J Wharton 10-10 B Dalton –
4 1055 GROGFRYN 16 (G) C Popham 10-10 R Farrant (3) 80
5 0 LEEWA 16 W Muir 10-10 D Gallagher –
6 660P NO SHOW 29 (B) R Juckes 10-10 W Humphreys 70
7 622 QUICK SILVER BOY 42 (BF) D Burchell 10-10 A Procter (5) ■
8 RU50 SEASIDE DREAMER 27 A Hambly 10-10 S D Williams 84
9 FATAL SHOCK 13F K Wingrove 10-5 J Ryan –
10 JOYCE E JACKSON 58F R Ingram 10-5 Richard Guest –
11 4 NORTHERN JUDY 16 R Hollinshead 10-5 S Wynne (3) 86
12 0 SAXON MAGIC 26 (B) J Bennett 10-5 L Harvey –

5-2 Quick Silver Boy, 7-2 Bayrak, 4-1 Northern Judy, 6-1 Seaside Dreamer, 7-1 Grogfryn, 10-1 others.

3.15 EDWARDIAN HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,718: 3m) (6)

1 5503 STORM DRUM 18 (B,D,F,S) K Bailey 4-12-0 R Davis (3) 98
2 4154 COURT CIRCULAR 7 (V,C,BF,F,G) W Clay 4-11-10 Diane Clay 96
3 2450 SHELTON ABBEY 22 (D,F,G,S) J Hellens 7-11-6 Richard Guest ■
4 /32- ANGELICA PARK 161F (D,F,G) J Wharton 7-11-2 B Dalton 90
5 460- FLYAWAY 13F (C,F,G) J Harris 8-11-0 D Gallagher 88
6 P-60 RAGTIME COWBOY JOE 7 (C,G) J Allen 8-10-2 Mr N Bradley (7) 92

7-4 Storm Drum, 3-1 Court Circular, 7-2 Angelica Park, 6-1 Shelton Abbey, 8-1 Flyaway, 12-1 Ragtime Cowboy Joe.

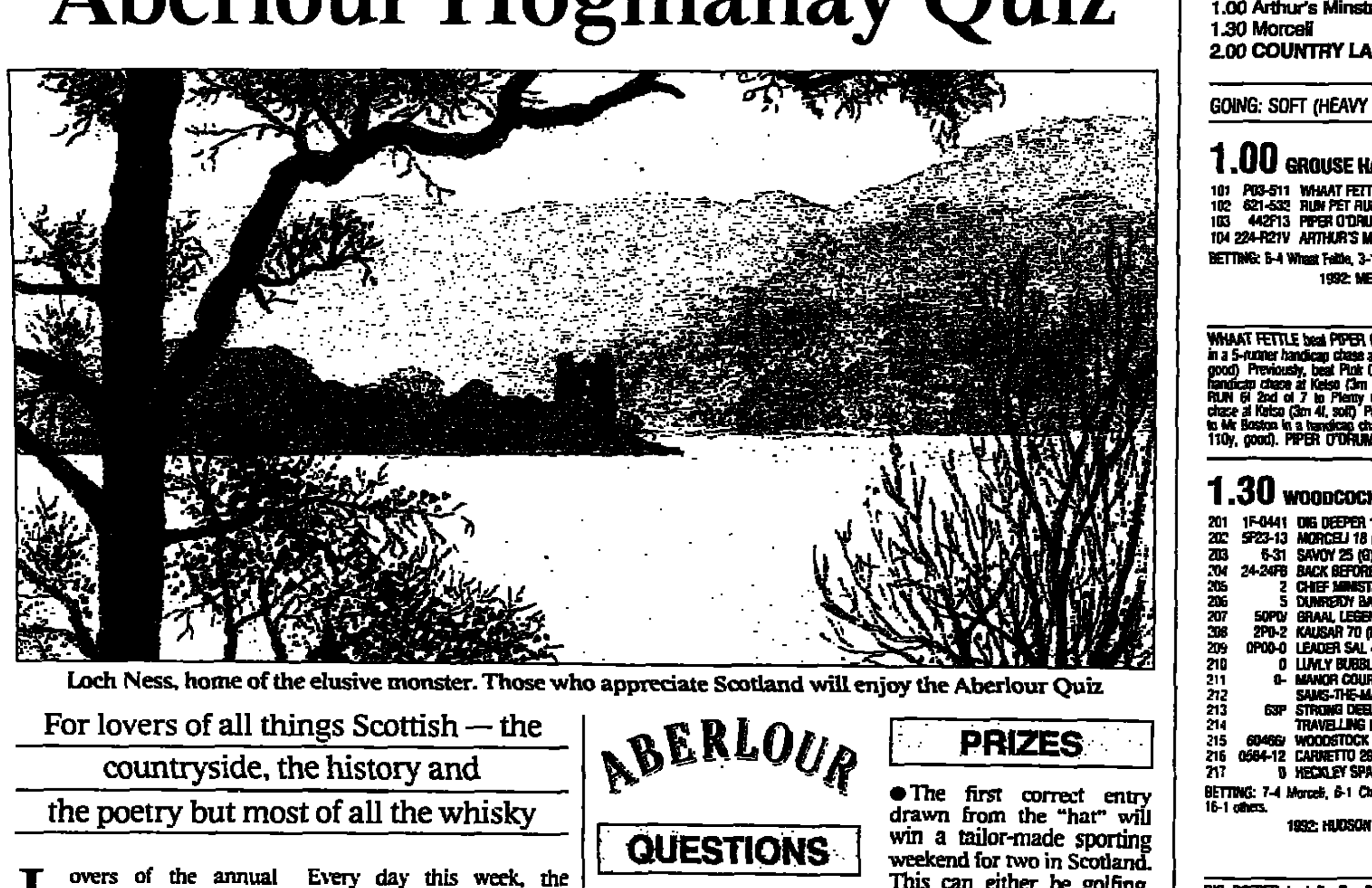
COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Hambly, 4 winners from 9 runners, 44.4%; S Sherwood, 5 from 13, 38.5%; J Hellens, 3 from 9, 33.3%; R Hollinshead, 32 from 121, 26.4%; K Bailey, 9 from 40, 22.5%; J Harris, 27 from 165, 16.4%.

JOCKEYS: Diane Clay, 24 winners from 73 rides, 32.9%; G Upton, 4 from 16, 25.0%; S Wynne, 40 from 198, 20.2%; Gary Lyons, 43 from 228, 18.9%; R Farrant, 3 from 19, 15.8%; B Dalton, 6 from 48, 12.5%.

WIN A WEEKEND IN SCOTLAND WITH THE TIMES

Aberlour Hogmanay Quiz



Loch Ness, home of the elusive monster. Those who appreciate Scotland will enjoy the Aberlour Quiz

For lovers of all things Scottish — the countryside, the history and the poetry but most of all the whisky

Lovers of the annual Aberlour Malt Whisky competition will have to re-direct and re-apply their talents this year. The competition is bigger, harder, more detailed and longer than ever before. And it now encompasses more subjects.

In celebration of all things Scottish, *The Times* is proud to present the first ever Aberlour Hogmanay Quiz. We have teamed up with the classic Speyside malt yet again to bring you further reason to revere, respect and relish Scotland. After all, a country can not be judged by its whisky alone.

Every day this week, the Aberlour Hogmanay Quiz will test your general knowledge of all things Scottish. The top prize is a tailor-made weekend for two in Scotland, catering to the winner's personal tastes.

Each quiz day there will be ten questions on a chosen theme: today — Geography; Thursday — Art and Literature; Friday — Food and Drink.

The third set of ten questions in our five day quiz are printed on the right. So, encyclopaedias at the ready, malt whisky in the glass and haggis on the plate.

HOW TO ENTER

EVERY day this week *The Times* will publish ten questions and today's questions are printed on the right. When you have the answers to all 50 questions, send them with your name and address to: The Times/Aberlour Hogmanay Quiz, 18-19 Whitefriars Street, London EC8S 2NG, to arrive no later than Monday, January 10, 1994. The winner will be chosen from all correct entries received by this date. Normal Times Newspaper competition rules apply.

ABERLOUR

QUESTIONS

21. How many rivers feed into Loch Ness?

22. What does the word Aber in Aberlour mean?

23. To the nearest five miles, how long is the River Spey?

24. Which Scottish town is the historical home of freemasonry?

25. What is the highest point on the Isle of Skye?

26. Which is the highest distillery in Scotland?

27. Which are the three main islands in the Firth of Clyde?

28. Name six Islay distilleries.

29. Where is Prince Charles's Cave?

30. How many local government areas are there in Scotland?

PRIZES

- The first correct entry drawn from the "hat" will win a tailor-made sporting weekend for two in Scotland. This can either be golfing, fishing or simply touring the distilleries. The weekend will be made to measure for the winner and partner.
- The second and third all-correct entries drawn will win a weekend for two on Speyside, the home of Aberlour and indeed of many of the world's greatest whiskies. Winners will fly to Aberdeen and spend two nights at the Craigellachie Hotel.
- The next 50 all-correct answers drawn will receive a special Aberlour/Riedel glass pack, containing a 35cl bottle of Aberlour Single Malt and two malt whisky glasses.
- And a further 50 correct entries will win a bottle of Aberlour Single Malt.
- Everyone with all-correct answers will receive a miniature of Aberlour.
- Plus everyone who enters will receive a £2-off voucher for their next purchase of Aberlour.

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER
1.00 Arthur's Minstrel. 1.30 Morceli. 2.00 COUNTRY LAD (nap). 2.30 Fret. 3.00 One For The Pot. 3.30 Tindari.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY PATCHES) SIS

1.00 GROUSE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,493: 3m) (4 runners)

101 P03-511 WHAAT FETTLE 48 (D,G,S) (Edinburgh Woollen Mill Ltd) G Richards 8-11-10 M Moloney 98
102 621-532 RUN PET RUN 13 (BF,G,S) (J Beck) P Monteith 8-10-6 A Dobbin ■
103 442F13 PIPER O'DRUMMOND 12 (D,G,S) (Mrs S Bramall) Mrs S Bramall 6-10-3 Mr D Parker (7) 98
104 224-R21V ARTHUR'S MINSTREL 13 (CD,F,G,S) (B Hathaway) P Cheesbrough 6-10-1 L Wyer 90

BETTING: 5-4 Whaat Fettle, 3-1 Piper O'Drummond, Run Pet Run, 4-1 Arthur's Minstrel.

1992: MERANO 9-11-11 G McCourt (Evens fav) M W Easterby 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

WHAAT FETTLE beat PIPER O'DRUMMOND neck in a 5-runner handicap chase at Kelso (2m 6f 110y, good). Previously, beat Pink Gin ½l in a 7-runner handicap chase at Kelso (3m 1f, good). RUN PET RUN 6l 2nd of 7 to Plenty Crack in a handicap chase at Kelso (3m 4f, soft). Previously, 7l 3rd of 8 to Mr Boston in a handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 110y, good). PIPER O'DRUMMOND's best effort came when beating Bowl Of Oats 2l in a 10-runner handicap chase at Leicester (3m, good to soft). ARTHUR'S MINSTREL beat Ceilidh Boy 3½l in a 16-runner novice chase over course and distance (good to soft). Previously 10l 2nd of 7 to Brackenfield in a novice chase at Wetherby (3m 110y, good).
Selection: WHAAT FETTLE

1.30 WOODCOCK NOVICES HURDLE (£3,600: 2m 4f) (17 runners)

201 1F-0441 DIG DEEPER 13 (D,S) (I Dalgleish) J J O'Neill 6-11-3 P Niven 73
202 5P23-13 MORCELI 18 (BF,G,S) (Mrs J Cornett) J Johnson 5-11-3 D J Moffatt (3) ■
203 6-31 SAVOY 25 (G) (R Ogden) G Richards 6-11-3 N Doughty 81
204 24-24FB BACK BEFORE DAWN 18 (J Pirie) P Monteith 6-11-0 A Dobbin 72
205 2 CHIEF MINISTER 13 (G Shiel) T Dyer 4-11-0 P Harley 81
206 5 DUNREIDY BAY 91 (J Wade) J Wade 5-11-0 P Williams (5) –
207 50P0/ GRAAL LEGEND 628 (The Morley Stud) P Cheesbrough 8-11-0 M Brennan –
208 2P0-2 KAUSAR 70 (Four Gentlemen) G Moore 6-11-0 J Callaghan 72
209 0P00-0 LEADER SAL 40 (J Wade) J Wade 4-11-0 D Ryan (7) –
210 0 LUVLY BUBBLY 29 (Lothian Plumbing Supplies Ltd) M Hammond 5-11-0 C Grant –
211 0- MANOR COURT 342 (R Lamb) R Lamb 5-11-0 J Burke (5) –
212 SAMS-THE-MAN (R Gray) R Gray 5-11-0 C Hawkins –
213 63P STRONG DEEL 13 (J Stephenson) W Reed 5-11-0 T Reed 64
214 TRAVELLING LIGHT 571F (Mrs J Ramsden) Mrs J Ramsden 7-11-0 Mr S Swiers –
215 60466/ WOODSTOCK LODGE 669 (A Carr) V Thompson 5-11-0 P Carr (7) –
216 0564-12 CARNETTO 28 (G) (Mrs R Brewis) R Brewis 6-10-12 F Leahy (7) 73
217 0 HECKLEY SPARK 29 (J Walton) F Walton 5-10-9 A Orkney –

BETTING: 7-4 Morceli, 6-1 Chief Minister, Savoy, Travelling Light, 8-1 Carnetto, Dig Deeper, 12-1 Kausar, 16-1 others.

1992: HUDSON BAY TRADER 5-11-6 Mrs A Farrell (14-1) P Beaumont 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

DIG DEEPER beat Par-Bar 2½l in a 12-runner novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 6f 110y, soft), with STRONG DEEL pulled up. MORCELI 12l 3rd of 7 to Large Action in the grade II Lauriets Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good). Previously, beat Southolt 12l in a 17-runner novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to soft). SAVOY beat Coqui Lane 1½l in an 8-runner novice hurdle at Wetherby (3m 1f, good). CHIEF MINISTER 2l 2nd of 15 to Lexngate in a novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 110y, soft).
KAUSAR 6l 2nd of 12 to Shawwell in a novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m 4f, good). CARNETTO 8l 2nd of 13 to Great Max in a novice hurdle over course and distance (good to soft), with STRONG DEEL (4lb worse off) 5l 3rd and LUVLY BUBBLY tailed off 7th.
Selection: MORCELI

2.00 NORTHUMBERLAND GOLD CUP NOVICES CHASE (Grade I: £15,265: 2m 110yd) (6 runners)

301 2121-22 BELLTON 12 (D,BF,F,S) (R Green) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-7 B Storey 81
302 61-3312 COUNTRY LAD 11 (D,G,S) (S Douch) Mrs S Williams 5-11-7 S McNeill 89
303 24-F011 GLEMOT 9 (D,F,G,S) (K McCormack) J Johnson 5-11-7 A Orkney 78
304 53-65P4 MASTER MISCHIEF 18 (B) (Mrs F Walton) F Walton 6-11-7 R Hodge 53
305 0422-11 NATIVE MISSION 18 (CD,G,S) (G Shouler) Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-11-7 M Dwyer ■
306 55-13P1 CELTIC SONG 22 (D,G,S) (Miss R Jefferys) W Reed 6-11-2 T Reed 73

BETTING: 11-10 Native Mission, 7-2 Country Lad, 6-1 Celtic Song, 13-2 Bellton, 10-1 Glemot, 33-1 Master Mischief.

1992: SYBILLIN 6-11-7 C Grant (15-8 fav) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

BELLTON 4l 2nd of 5 to Roc Color in a novice chase at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, soft). Previously, 8l 2nd of 4 to Coulton in a novice chase at Wetherby (2m, soft). COUNTRY LAD 5l 2nd of 5 to Cool Sword in a novice chase at Uttoxeter (2m, heavy).
GLEMOT beat Marlingford 3l in an 11-runner novice chase at Edinburgh (3m, good). MASTER MISCHIEF 12½l 4th of 10 to Inverinate in a novices' handicap chase at Edinburgh (3m, good to firm). NATIVE MISSION beat Rodeo Star 15l in a 5-runner novice chase at Nottingham on penultimate start (2m, good to soft). CELTIC SONG beat Durham Sunset 6l in an 8-runner novice chase at Sedgefield (2m 5f, good to soft).
Selection: COUNTRY LAD

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
P Cheesbrough	5	14	35.7	N Bentley	8	28	28.6
G Moore	17	56	30.4	C Grant	35	149	23.5
M H Easterby	13	67	19.4	P Niven	20	115	17.4
B Wilkinson	6	33	18.2	L Wyer	12	75	16.0
J Johnson	16	90	17.8	T Reed	16	107	15.0
P Monteith	6	36	16.7	N Doughty	7	50	14.0

2.30 PARTRIDGE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £3,980: 2m 110yd) (17 runners)

401 121 RED MARAUDER 46 (D,G,S) (N Mason) N Mason 11-8 J Supple (5) 96
402 F0 ADMISSION 25 (N Chamberlain) N Chamberlain 10-12 C Grant –
403 CIVIL LAW 71F (Mrs B Facchino) Mrs V Aconley 10-12 P Niven –
404 FRET 53F (N Honeyman) G Moore 10-12 N Bentley (3) –
405 FRIENDLY KNIGHT 55F (G Johnston) J Haldane 10-12 A Orkney –
406 56 FUNNY FEELINGS 29 (Pegasus Racing Club) P Monteith 10-12 A Dobbin 69
407 0 GERMAN LEGEND 50 (R Lamb) R Lamb 10-12 J Burke (5) 77
408 024 GREAT EASEBY 9 (D Batey) W Storey 10-12 R Hodge 86
409 0 HO-JOE 25 (S Ho) J Carr 10-12 N Smith –
410 4F IJAB 28 (Mrs L Parkes) J Parkes 10-12 M Dwyer 86
411 4U4 MHEMEANLES 25 (BF) (L Ford) M H Easterby 10-12 L Wyer ■
412 6505 NATIVE WORTH 29 (Mrs M Barker) J Jefferson 10-12 P Williams (5) 82
413 2 OUTSET 28 (M Kilner) M Hammond 10-12 Mr C Bonner (7) 97
414 RED FAN 13F (J Wynn-Williams) M Dods 10-12 B Storey –
415 THALEROS 92F (M Gleeson) G Moore 10-12 J Callaghan –
416 BALLON 63F (Whitworth Racing) M Dods 10-7 T Reed –
417 00 DIGNIFIED 9 (Mrs L Dyer) T Dyer 10-7 A Linton (7) 74

BETTING: 4-1 Red Marauder, 9-2 Fret, Thaleros, 6-1 Civil Law, Mhemeanles, 8-1 Ijab, Outset, 12-1 others.

1992: BOLD BOSS 11-0 N Bentley (2-1 fav) G Moore 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

RED MARAUDER beat Principal Player 10l in an 8-runner novice hurdle at Ayr (2m, good), with FUNNY FEELINGS (5lb better off) 28½l 5th and ADMISSION fell. FRET's best recent effort on the Flat came when 17l 5th of 7 to Captain Horatius in a listed race at Doncaster (1m 4f, good). GREAT EASEBY 10l 4th of 14 to Imperial Bid in a novice hurdle at Edinburgh (2m 4f, good), with DIGNIFIED 23l 10th. MHEMEANLES 15l 4th of 10 to Hyde's Happy Hour in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), with HO-JOE 28l 8th and ADMISSION tailed off 9th. OUTSET head 2nd of 16 to Atherton Green in a novice hurdle at Catterick, and IJAB fell.
Selection: RED MARAUDER

3.00 GAMEBIRD HANDICAP CHASE (£3,493: 2m 4f) (5 runners)

501 2-220P0 ARMAGRET 18 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs R Wilkinson) B Wilkinson 8-12-0 L O'Hara ■
502 31234-6 BAD TRADE 22 (D,G,S) (D Alder) D Alder 11-10-5 C Grant 94
503 2F5F22 ONE FOR THE POT 12 (C,F,G,S) (P Davies) M Naughton 8-10-1 L Wyer 95
504 2-4P132 NIGHT GUEST 22 (C,D,BF,F,G,S) (J Fiddes) P Monteith 11-10-0 A Dobbin 95
505 600F0-4 RAHIINANE 23 (F,G) (G Tobitt) J Johnson 10-10-0 A Orkney –

Long handicap: Night Guest 9-6, Rahinane 8-7.

BETTING: 2-1 One For The Pot, 3-1 Bad Trade, Night Guest, 4-1 Armagret, 25-1 Rahinane.

1992: GALE AGAIN 5-11-10 C Grant (8-13 fav) P Cheesbrough 3 ran

FORM FOCUS

ARMAGRET's best recent effort came when 2½l 2nd of 7 to Howe Street in a handicap chase over course and distance (good). BAD TRADE's best effort came when beating Tri Folene 5l in a 3-runner handicap chase at Haydock last season (2m 4f, good to soft).
ONE FOR THE POT 6l 2nd of 4 to Trimlough in a handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m, heavy). Previously, 3l 2nd of 5 to Cotapaxi in a handicap chase at Worcester (2m, good). NIGHT GUEST ½l 3rd of 7 to Lupy Minstrel in a handicap chase at Sedgefield (2m 5f, good to soft), with BAD TRADE (11lb better off) 30½l 6th. RAHINANE 32½l 4th of 7 to Sonsie Mo in a handicap chase at Edinburgh (2m, good to firm).
Selection: ARMAGRET

3.30 PHEASANT HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,850: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

601 2221-3P HIGH ALLTITUDE 21 (CD,G,S) (B Batey) G Moore 5-12-0 N Bentley (3) 93
602 105-608 DOMINANT SERENADE 41 (G,S) M Hammond 4-11-10 D Bentley (5) 92
603 0/22111- TINDARI 323 (G) (Yorkshire Racing Club Owners Group) J Jefferson 5-10-12 P Williams (5) 93
604 /21F2/2 NORTHANTS 21 (D,G,S) (C Rasmuson) W Storey 7-10-4 R Hodge ■
605 0-31545 BAY TERN 13 (D,F,G,S) (T Dyer) T Dyer 7-10-3 P Harley 98
606 F001-14 FROMTHEGETGO 54 (F,G) (Ridon Stars & Stripes Partnership) B Rothwell 4-10-0 L Wyer 96
607 0253-24 PALACEGATE KING 13 (C,S) (C Whitlarc) A Whillans 4-10-0 M Moloney 92

Long handicap: Fromthegetgo 9-12, Palacegate King 9-8.

BETTING: 7-2 Dominant Serenade, Northants, 4-1 Palacegate King, 6-1 Tindari, 7-1 High Altitude, 10-1 Bay Tern, 12-1 Fromthegetgo.

1992: ABBOT OF FURNESS 8-11-7 B Storey (6-4 jt-fav) G Richards 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

DOMINANT SERENADE 2l 3rd of 11 to Bonanza in a handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 6f, good to soft). TINDARI beat Gymcrack Gamble neck in a 14-runner conditional jockeys' handicap hurdle at Carlisle last season (3m 110yd, good). NORTHANTS short-head 2nd of 13 to Linkside in a handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 7f 110yd, soft). BAY TERN 17l 4th of 6 to Trump in a handicap hurdle at Ayr on penultimate start (2m 4f, good). FROMTHEGETGO beat Driving Force 3½l in an 18-runner handicap hurdle at Worcester on penultimate start (2m, good to firm). PALACEGATE KING 5¾l 4th of 9 to Aragon Ayr in a conditional jockeys' handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, soft), with BAY TERN (8lb better off) 2l 5th.
Selection: NORTHANTS (nap)

Plumpton doubt

THERE will be an inspection at 7.30am to determine prospects for racing at Plumpton today. The meeting is in jeopardy due to waterlogging and Cliff Griggs, the clerk of the course, reports chances as only "50-50" at present.

There will be an inspection at Carlisle at 4pm to determine prospects for tomorrow's meeting. Yesterday's meeting at Wetherby was abandoned due to snow.

RAPID RACELINE
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 0891-168-168
0891 168+ 'BEFORE THE OFF' RESULTS COMMENTARY

NEWCASTLE	101	201	301
STRATFORD	102	202	302
PLUMPTON	103	203	303
SOUTHWELL	104	204	304
IRISH	120	220	320
G'HOUNDS	122	222	422

Calls charged at 36p/min cheap rate, 48p/min at all other times. IMS, 15 Marsh Lane, Leeds LS1 8JX

Riverside Boy is latest to extend Pipe's winning run

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

FOR Chepstow, read Pipestow. After Riverside Boy provided Martin Pipe with his fifth Coral Welsh National in the last six years there were suggestions yesterday that the racecourse should be renamed in honour of the champion trainer.

Rodger Farrant, the clerk of the course, may have been joking but there was a hint of seriousness in the voice of Rob Hartnett, the Coral representative, who approached Pipe in the winner's enclosure and asked: "You don't fancy jointly sponsoring this race with us next year, do you? We nearly put your inscription on the trophy before the race was run."

The engraver would have had no worries as Riverside Boy set off in front, jumped impeccably and galloped through the gluepot conditions to have the race in safe keeping half a mile from home.

The hardest part of the race for Richard Dunwoody was negotiating the bend nearest the stables, where the mercurial Riverside Boy showed signs of wanting to run out. For a dreadful moment, the champion jockey had visions of the 6-4 favourite ejecting him as he had done Peter Scudamore at Market Rasen last year. "You can never entirely trust him," Dunwoody said. "That is why I didn't ease up on the run-in."

The big-race success, the first for Dunwoody since he became stable jockey to Pipe, was reward for a lean Christmas day when he restricted himself to a couple of slices of turkey, sandwiched between spending two hours in the sauna. The self-denial ensured he could weigh out at the ten stone allotted to Riverside Boy.

After a sticky start to the new trainer-jockey partnership, Dunwoody is hoping the revival in the fortunes of the Nicholashayne string will make for a happier 1994. Pipe reflected: "I have had a lean spell with coughs and the virus, but things are improving. It will take another six weeks to get back to normal."

He reported that Carvill's Hill was cantering and working well at home and would have one race before going for the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Meanwhile, Riverside Boy is likely to be aimed at two more Nationals, the Midlands version at Uttoxeter and the Aintree race.

David Nicholson, still unhappy with the riding ban imposed on Adrian Maguire and Declan Murphy after the King George at Kempton, confirmed that Barton Bank is sure to go straight to Cheltenham and will not have a Gold Cup prep race. Nicholson already has a potentially impressive list of festival runners and Mysilv underlined her position as market leader for the Triumph Hurdle with an authoritative success in the Finale Junior Hurdle. She was cut from 16-1 to 10-1 by Corals.

The £30,000 race was almost certainly the strongest line-up of juvenile hurdlers seen this season, but turning for home Mysilv had most of the field in trouble and steadily drew away from her rivals over the last two flights.

Maguire commented: "She tanked off a bit but once we turned up the hill she settled. She's the best three-year-old I have ridden and took to this game from the first day we schooled her."

The winner, owned by 150 members of the Million In Mind Partnership, will probably have one more run before Cheltenham with the Stroud Hurdle at Newbury a distinct possibility.

Bay Mischief looked an above-average recruit to hurdling when winning the opening Levy Board-sponsored race and the Sun Alliance Hurdle is on the agenda for the Nigel Twiston-Davies-trained runner. The gelding made the running and the tactics were adopted successfully by stablemate Earth Summit when winning the Festive Spirit Novices' Chase.

Pipe: fifth National

Towering task ahead as rally sets off for Dakar

PIERRE Charmasson, the Frenchman, pictured above driving his Toyota, was among the earliest starters as the first stage of the sixteenth Paris-Dakar Rally got under way near the Eiffel Tower at dawn yesterday.

Bruno Saby, last year's winner in a Mitsubishi, picked up where he left off by winning the short opening first stage, a four-kilometre race on a twisting course at Chailly, near Paris, in 5min 4sec. Heinz Kinigadner, of Austria, led the motorcycle division after the first of 17 stages of the gruelling 8,361-mile rally, which is due to finish with a final stage between Euro Disney and Paris on January 16, following a race across the Sahara and through Morocco, Mauritania and Senegal. The rally is scheduled to arrive in Dakar on January 6, from where it will head back across the desert and to France. In all, 259 cars, motorcycles and trucks set off yesterday. After the first stage, the drivers headed for Bordeaux and then Grenada, Spain, from where they will take a ferry to Tangiers. From its biggest entry — 603 vehicles in 1988 — the race has suffered dwindling interest because of rising costs and various controversies, including the dangers of the event and civil wars along the rally route.

Niven beats the weather to land Ericsson Chase

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent in Dublin

DEEP Bramble landed a spectacular coup when coming out best in a three-way photo-finish for the Ir£50,000 Ericsson Chase at Leopardstown yesterday.

The six-year-old was on offer at 12-1 in the morning and laid at all odds down 4-1.

However, the odds on winning rider, Peter Niven, getting to Leopardstown looked a great deal longer at one stage. He ran into snow drifts on his way to Leeds and having battled his way there discovered that the airport was closed. He contacted Michael Hourigan to suggest that the trainer should make alternative arrangements.

Hourigan booked his neighbour, amateur rider Enda Bolger, who had ridden Deep Bramble in point-to-points. In the meantime Niven headed to Manchester and there he managed to pick up a connection for Dublin which got him to the course less than an hour before the race. Bolger stood down even though he had been announced over the public address as the rider.

All through the race Niven had Deep Bramble disputing the lead with the joint-favourite, Cahervillahow, but coming to the second-last Force Seven strolled into the lead. Even at the last Force Seven looked the probable winner but Trevor Horgan had come too soon on the six-year-old mare, who failed to last out the three miles, and was caught by Deep Bramble, who held the fast-finishing Flashing Steel by a head.

Deep Bramble could be a Cheltenham Gold Cup candidate but a more probable objective is the Irish Grand National.

Trainer John Mulhern was delighted with Flashing Steel who had lost valuable ground five fences from home. "He had not been out of his box until five days ago after his post-Cheltenham injury," he said. "And this race will have done him a power of good."

Tiananmen Square beat Dorans Pride by a length in the Orchard Inns Rathfarnham And Stillorgan Hurdle. The Noel Meade-trained gelding, sidelined for over a year with a muscle problem is rated at 12-1, by Ladbrokes, for the Champion Hurdle.

Dermot Weld's Champion Hurdle candidate Fortune And Fame makes his comeback in the Bookmakers' Hurdle after a lay-off of more than 20 months.

Weld says that Fortune And Fame is not fully wound up and so he may fail to cope with the English challenger, Royal Derbi.

Warrington return to winning ways

By Christopher Irvine

WARRINGTON yesterday recaptured the lead of the Stones Bitter rugby league championship taken from them by Wigan two days earlier. In a torrid encounter on a glue-pot pitch at Naughton Park, they eventually ground down Widnes 18-10.

Behind for more than an hour, the visitors got their play together when Kelly Shelford forced his way over by the posts and furnished Mike Gregory, the former Great Britain captain, on his return from injury, with a decisive try that also came as welcome relief.

After defeats by Wigan in the Regal Trophy and at Wakefield Trinity, Warrington's season was in danger of going badly awry at Widnes, who had last lost at home in the first division in September, since when the impoverished Cheshire club has made impressive use of their reduced playing resources.

On a a treacherous surface, Widnes achieved the greater control early on and a try by Christian Tyrer, improved by Bobby Goulding, was followed up in the fourth minute of first-half injury time when Adrian Hadley slithered through the visitors' defence on the left wing.

That, however, was the sum of the home side's scoring efforts. Warrington maintained their interest at half-time after Mark Forster had collected Greg Mackey's chip into space, and the two touchdowns in the final quarter were reward for the pressure they exerted on a belligerent Widnes defence for much of the second period.

In landing three of five goal attempts, Jonathan Davies marked his return to Widnes since leaving the club last summer by becoming the first player to pass the 200-point mark for the season.

With the defeat by Wigan ten days ago still vivid in the memory, Warrington had little time to steel themselves for their reacquaintance with the League champions at Wilderspool on Sunday. Although their championship lead is two points, Wigan have played two games fewer, as have third-placed Bradford Northern.

Gregory: try on return

As in their 14 previous league matches, bottom placed Leigh lost at home to Sheffield Eagles, whose five tries by Daryl Powell, Lynton Stott, David Plange, Richard Price, and the Frenchman, David Fraisse, gave them a comfortable 24-14 victory and moved them back up to ninth position.

In the second division, heavy snow caused the postponement of the leaders', Huddersfield's game at Keighley. Barrow won their fifth successive home league match, overcoming Carlisle 26-14. In the other Cumbrian derby, Whitehaven and Workington Town shared that rugby rarity, a scoreless draw.

As he prepares for his first fixture in charge of St Helens, against Widnes at home this weekend, Eric Hughes has dismissed his assistant coach, Frank Barrow, who had spent four years at Knowsley Road. Eric Ashton, the club chairman, said Hughes wanted his own backroom staff.

After breaking his right arm and chipping a bone in his wrist during the defeat of St Helens four days ago, Martin Hall, the Wigan hooker, will be unable to play for at least six weeks. Shaun Edwards suffered a recurrence of a dislocated shoulder and Frano Botica (ankle) and Martin Offiah (thigh) will all face fitness tests before the key game at Warrington.

Results and tables, page 24

STRATFORD

THUNDERER

12.40 Cru Exceptionnel. 1.10 Jura. 1.40 Yaafoor. 2.10 Glenshane Lad. 2.40 Driving Force. 3.10 Fantus. 3.40 Konvekta Conrol.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

12.40 AULD LANG SYNE NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I: £1,912: 2m 110yd) (13 runners)

1 01R3 BALLYHYLAND 41 (G) J Webber 4-11-0 DOUBTFUL
2 F- CRU EXCEPTIONNEL 291 P Hobbs 5-10-12 A Maguire
3 03F0 DAUPHIN BLEU 7 P Pritchard 7-10-12 Dr P Pritchard
4 00P EMBLEY BUOY 32 J Mullins 5-10-12 S Earle
5 GANESHAYA 184F J Allen 4-10-12 Mr N Bradley (7)
6 MASTER TUCK V Bishop 7-10-12 R Bellamy
7 PRINCE RODNEY 98F C Drewe 4-10-12 R Dunwoody
8 ROBENKO 76F G Charles-Jones 4-10-12 D Meade (7)
9 2/ SINCLAIR BOY 835F A Foster 7-10-12 E Byrne
10 KIMBOLTON KRACKER Mrs P Sly 6-10-7 A Carroll
11 UU ROXY RIVER 20 J Spearing 4-10-7 D Bridgwater
12 3/P- SMART IN SABLE 462 P Hedger 6-10-7 M Richards
13 0 TENAYESTELIGN 16 D Marks 5-10-7 J McCarthy (5)

11-10 Cru Exceptionnel, 7-2 Robenko, 5-1 Kimbolton Kracker, 8-1 Prince Rodney, 12-1 Dauphin Bleu, 16-1 Master Tuck, Sinclair Boy, 20-1 others.

1.10 AULD LANG SYNE NOVICES HURDLE
(Div II: £1,912: 2m 110yd) (13)

1 /10 BUTLER'S TWITCH 30 (BF,G) D Sherwood 6-11-5 J Osborne
2 026 HIGHLAND FLAME 27 A Blackmore 4-10-12 D Bridgwater
3 JURA 83F J Fanshawe 5-10-12 S Smith Eccles
4 0-32 KEEP ME IN MIND 15 N Mitchell 4-10-12 D Skyrme
5 U MANDYS LAD 11 N Twiston-Davies 4-10-12 C Llewellyn
6 5/44- MUZO 501 Miss R Palman 6-10-12 W Humphreys
7 5-P0 SALINGER 11 M Barraclough 5-10-12 V Smith
8 0-0 SHELLHOUSE 30 N Henderson 5-10-12 Mr C Vigors (7)
9 3 SURE HAVEN 27 R Hodges 4-10-12 R Dunwoody
10 0/ AMYS DELIGHT 585F A Chamberlain 5-10-7 B Powell
11 0 DEBBIGENE 16 D Geraghty 7-10-7 R Supple
12 5 GESNERA 62 K White 5-10-7 A Maguire
13 50-0 MARINER'S AIR 7 J Spearing 6-10-7 N Williamson

2-1 Jura, 3-1 Sure Haven, 7-2 Butler's Twitch, 9-2 Keep Me In Mind, 8-1 Mandys Lad, 10-1 Gesnera, 16-1 Muzo, 33-1 Salinger, 40-1 others.

1.40 BRAN TUB SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,800: 2m 110yd) (10)

1 3P-0 RED JACK 25 (D,S) J Akehurst 4-12-0 A Maguire
2 2232 DOUALAGO 12 (V,BF,G,S) M Pipe 3-11-5 R Dunwoody
3 300P SMART DEBUTANTE 26 (CD,F) Mrs P Joynes 4-11-0 Mr S Joynes (7)
4 3520 NAJEB 7 (B) S Coathup 4-11-0 N Williamson
5 5-F9 YAAFOOR 12 (V) P Hedger 4-10-10 M Richards
6 2645 CREAGMHOR 12 B Llewellyn 3-10-9 V Slattery
7 U53 BOLD STAR 16 R Hollinshead 3-10-6 J Osborne
8 030P ABELONI 8 (B) S Coathup 4-10-5 B Powell
9 R600 STAR MARKET 42 Mrs P Joynes 3-10-2 T Wall
10 0050 IRISH DOMINION 20 P Leach 3-10-0 H Davies

5-2 Doualago, 3-1 Creagmhor, 9-2 Bold Star, 6-1 Najeb, 8-1 Irish Dominion, 10-1 Abeloni, Smart Debutante, 12-1 Yaafoor, 14-1 Star Market, 16-1 Red Jack.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Hollinshead, 4 winners from 10 runners, 40.0%, T Forster, 15 from 55, 27.3%, D Sherwood, 5 from 19, 26.3%, J Upson, 5 from 21, 23.8%; M Pipe, 19 from 86, 22.1%; N Twiston-Davies, 8 from 38, 21.1%.

JOCKEYS: C Llewellyn, 17 winners from 66 rides, 25.8%, A Maguire, 13 from 54, 24.1%; J Osborne, 6 from 38, 15.7%, R Dunwoody, 14 from 91, 15.4%, S Smith Eccles, 5 from 35, 14.3%; H Davies, 5 from 42, 11.9%.

2.10 J H ROWE CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,649: 3m) (7)

1 121- SIKERA SPY 256 (D,F,G,S) Mrs A Hewitt 11-11-10 B Powell
2 2122 TRI FOLENE 40 (B,BF,F,G,S) M Pipe 7-11-7 R Dunwoody
3 534F SIRRAH JAY 13 (F,G,S) K Burke 13-10-9 T Jenks (5)
4 122P FIVELEIGH FIRST 7 (G) J Upson 5-10-3 R Supple
5 14-0U GLOVE PUPPET 14 (D,G) G Balding 8-10-2 A Maguire
6 4223 GLENSHANE LAD 28 (BF,F,G,S) K Bailey 7-10-1 N Williamson
7 2-842 NEW HALEN 7 (C,F,G,S) A James 12-10-1 R Bellamy

2-1 Tri Folene, 3-1 Sikera Spy, 7-2 Glenshane Lad, 13-2 Glove Puppet, 7-1 New Halen, 12-1 Sirrah Jay.

2.40 VIVIAN STREET HANDICAP CHASE
(Amateurs: £2,635: 2m 1f 110yd) (6)

1 F2-3 ITS NEARLY TIME 12 (G,S) Mrs R Brackenbury 10-12-0 Miss J Brackenbury (7)
2 1332 AL HASHIMI 43 (C,F,G) R Hodges 9-11-13 G Wheeler (7)
3 0411 DRIVING FORCE 28 (B,F,G,S) Mrs M McCourt 7-11-7 J Durkan (3)
4 -426 CHAIN SHOT 23 (C,D,F,G) J Peacock 8-10-11 G Hogan (7)
5 F04- AIR COMMANDER 243 (CD,F,G) Mrs P Joynes 8-10-7 S Joynes (7)
6 P055 SANDMOOR PRINCE 7 (F,G) P Pritchard 10-10-0 P Pritchard (7)

2-1 Al Hashimi, 11-4 Driving Force, 4-1 Chain Shot, 5-1 Its Nearly Time, 10-1 Air Commander, 12-1 Sandmoor Prince.

3.10 YARNOLDS OF STRATFORD NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,193: 2m 5f 110yd) (9)

1 024-P VAZON BAY 62 (B,BF,F) Mrs J Pitman 9-11-10 J Osborne
2 3-42 FANTUS 32 (BF,G) P Nicholls 6-11-10 R Dunwoody
3 53-F BUCKELIGHT 21 T Forster 5-11-5 B Powell
4 6PP3 MICKEEN 14 (B,F,G) Miss H Knight 6-11-3 A Maguire
5 P056 CONCERT PAPER 11 (G,S) R O'Leary 9-11-2 K Davies (7)
6 PPP- PEGMARINE 249 Mrs A Woodrow 10-11-0 J McCarthy (5)
7 300- FREE JUSTICE 261 (S) N Twiston-Davies 9-10-9 C Llewellyn
8 P-FU GALLANTRY BANK 48 J White 8-10-5 W McFarland
9 FF04 SILENT CHANT 27 (V,F) A Blackmore 9-10-3 D Bridgwater

5-4 Fantus, 7-2 Buckelight, 5-1 Mickeen, Vazon Bay, 8-1 Concert Paper, 10-1 Free Justice, 20-1 Silent Chant, 25-1 Pegmarine, 50-1 Gallantry Bank.

3.40 GOOD RESOLUTIONS NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,178: 2m 6f 110yd) (17)

1 0221 WELSH LUSTRE 18 (S) D Nicholson 4-10-13 A Maguire
2 3- ARDSCUD 219 M Bradstock 6-10-12 P Holley
3 0 CASTLE WARRIOR 21 M Lloyd 6-10-12 T Wall
3 3 CATS RUN 25 J Upson 5-10-12 R Supple
5 DESERT RUN P Nicholls 5-10-12 C Maude
6 -003 DOWRY SQUARE 35 P Murphy 5-10-12 E Murphy
7 0-5 ESSDOUBLEYOU 28 Mrs J Renfree-Barons 5-10-12 H Davies
8 0 HURRICANE HANKS 68 N Twiston-Davies 4-10-12 C Llewellyn
9 143-2 KONVEKTA CONTROL 41 (BF,G) D Sherwood 6-10-12 J Osborne
10 65 LACURVA 56 M Wilkinson 5-10-12 S Earle
11 -000 MARINERS MEMORY 19 R Brazington 5-10-12 W Humphreys
12 2-40 MR CLANCY 13 K Bailey 5-10-12 N Williamson
13 0- MY DEAR GOOD MAN 230 R Alner 5-10-12 T Grantham
14 0 ROCK DIAMOND 25 G Balding 7-10-12 E Leonard
15 P/ LADY ROMANCE 669 B Llewellyn 5-10-7 Mr J L Llewellyn (7)
16 0- LOVING AROUND 266 N Henderson 5-10-7 R Dunwoody
17 0 MISS CRUISE 19 N Babbage 6-10-7 D Bridgwater

7-2 Konvekta Control, 4-1 Welsh Lustre, 5-1 Cats Run, 8-1 others.

BIG-RACE ACCEPTORS

NEWBURY SATURDAY: 1.40 CHALLOW HURDLE (Grade 1: £17,075, 2m 5f) (10 five-day acceptors) Arctic Course, Book Of Music, Corrouge, Ivor's Flutter, Large Action, Mad Thyme, Powleyvale, River Lossie, Sparkling Sunset, Top Spin

2.15 LADBROKE GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHASE (£17,588: 3m 2f 110yd) (18 acceptors) Annio Chilone, Antonin, Auction Law, Cool And Easy, Direct, Do Be Brief, Dubacilla, Gambling Royal, Grange Brake, Light Veneer, Midnight Caller, Native Pride, Parsons Green, Rathvinden House, Solidasarock, Stirrup Cup, Very Very Ordinary, Windy Ways

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Kempton Park

Going: good

12.45 (2m 5f hdle) 1, WINGS COVE (E Murphy, 13-8 jt-fav); 2, Karar (N Williamson, 12-1), 3, Chief's Song (H Davies, 13-8 jt-fav). ALSO RAN: 6 Rich Life (4th), 16 Runaway Pete, 20 Jacksons Bay (pu), 66 Wonderful Years, 100 Andafied (5th), Rowlandsons Gold (6th). 9 ran. Nk, 25l, 15l, 5l, 1½l. Lady Herries at Littlehampton. Tote £2.70; £1.30, £2.40, £1.80. DF: £17.20. Trio: £13.40. CSF: £18.80.

1.16 (2m ch) 1, SAN LORENZO (N Williamson, 3-1). 2, Thumbs Up (M A Fitzgerald, 5-4 fav); 3, Fantasy World (D Murphy, 20-1). ALSO RAN. 2 One More Dream (pu) 4 ran 2½l, ¾l K Bailey at Lambourn. Tote: £3.30. DF: £2.10. CSF £6.67.

1.45 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, RICHVILLE (N Williamson, 2-1 fav); 2, Smartie Express (M A Fitzgerald, 5-1). 3, Buck Willow (D Murphy, 5-1). ALSO RAN. 5 Ardbrin (pu), 11-2 Antonin (ur), 14 Laundryman (5th), 20 Mighty Falcon (pu). 50 Montalino (4th) 8 ran. 10l, 12l, 1½l, 8l. K Bailey at Lambourn. Tote: £3.10; £1.50, £1.60, £1.50 DF: £12.10. Trio: £10.90 CSF: £11.40. Tricast £37.83

2.20 BONUSPRINT CHRISTMAS HURDLE (Grade 1) (£33,960: 2m)

MUSE ch g High Line - Thoughtful (White Horse Racing) 6-11-7 M Richards (3-1) 1.

High Baron gr g Baron Blakeney - High Finesse (Miss C A James) 6-11-7 M Hourigan (33-1) 2.

Absalom's Lady gr m Absalom - High Point Lady (Whitcombe Manor Racing Stables Limited) 5-11-2 D Murphy (4-1) 3.

ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Halkopous (4th), 11-4 King Credo (5th). 5 ran. 5l, ¾l, ¾l, dist. D Elsworth at Whitsbury. Tote: £3.90; £1.60, £3.00. DF: £27.20. CSF: £40.64

2.50 (3m ch) 1, FIGHTING WORDS (D Murphy, 5-1), 2, Dublin Flyer (G McCourt, 7-4 fav), 3, Stunning Stuff (N Williamson, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Le Piccolage (f), 9 Touching Star (pu). 5 ran. NR: Bold Choice, Sir Peter Lely, 3½l, 4l J Gifford at Findon. Tote: £5.90; £2.00, £1.30. DF: £4.30. CSF: £12.70.

3.20 (2m 5f hdle) 1, JEASSU (B Clifford, 4-1); 2, Lusty Lad (H Davies, 20-1); 3, Change The Act (J Osborne, 100-30). ALSO RAN: 3-1 jt-fav Belly Clover (4th), Bellezza (f), 10 Coworth Park (pu), 14 Tik Tech Flyer (5th). 7 ran. 2½l, 10l, 1½l, nk. A J Wilson at Cheltenham. Tote: £6.90; £2.40, £3.00. DF. £54.30 CSF: £56.80.

Jackpot: £7,134.40. (0.19 winning tickets. Pool of £8,139.29 carried forward to Newcastle today).

Placepot: £310.00.

Chepstow

Going: heavy

12.20 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, BAY MISCHIEF (C Llewellyn, 9-4 fav); 2, Kytton Castle (D Meredith, 5-1); 3, Mad Thyme (M Perrett, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Brandon Prince (4th), 10 Chemin Le Roi (6th), See Enough (5th), 20 Senior Steward (pu), 25 Lets Rumble, Rocky Bay (pu), 66 Marano, Our Arnold (f), Our Wizzer, Rustic Flight (pu), 100 The Quaker. 14 ran. NR: Desert Run. 3l, 15l, ½l, 12l, 2½l. N Twiston-Davies at Cheltenham. Tote £2.20; £1.50, £2.10, £1.70. DF: £7.80. CSF. £13.38

12.50 (3m ch) 1, EARTH SUMMIT (C Llewellyn, 2-1 fav); 2, Suffolk Road (J Railton, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 Ebony Gale (pu), Fiveleigh First (pu), 14 Young Brave (f). 20 Hand Out (pu), 66 Sam Pepper (r). 7 ran. NR: Fantus 20l. N Twiston-Davies at Cheltenham. Tote £2.50; £1.80, £3.40. DF. £12.80. CSF: £24.68.

1.20 (2m 110yd) 1, MYSILV (A Maguire, 11-10 fav); 2, Burnt Imp (J Callaghan, 14-1); 3, Kadastrof (D Meredith, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Admiral's Well (pu), 11-2 Nawar (4th), 8 Grand Applause (pu), 10 Just You Dare (pu), 20 Heathyards Boy (pu), 25 Giordano (pu), Spring Marathon (5th), 100 Didacte (pu), Solo Charter (pu). 12 ran. NR: Abjar, Touch Silver 8l, 12l, 1l, 4l. D Nicholson at Temple Guiting. Tote £2.00; £1.50, £3.40, £1.90. DF. £16.00. Trio: £60.50. CSF: £20.56.

1.55 (3m 5f 110yd) 1, RIVERSIDE BOY (R Dunwoody, 6-4 fav; Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Fiddlers Pike (Mrs R Henderson, 20-1), 3, Cool Ground (P Holley, 9-4). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Indian Tonic (ur), 7 Willsford (4th), 9 Merry Master (f), 10 Sibton Abbey (pu), 25 Rufus (5th). 8 ran NR: Cythere, Party Politics 20l, 8l, 5l, ½l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote. £2.80; £1.50, £3.00, £1.70. DF: £40.80. Trio. £29.40 CSF: £29.54. Tricast £59.25.

2.25 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, OLD BRIDGE (S McNeill, 11-8); 2, Maamur (R Dunwoody, 4-5 fav), 3, Daringly (R Bellamy, 13-1). ALSO RAN: 13 First Century (4th). 4 ran NR: Cabochon, Northern Saddler Sh hd, 30l, 12l Andrew Turnell at Wantage Tote. £2.20. DF: £1.40. CSF: £2.84

3.00 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, CAMELOT KNIGHT (C Llewellyn, 11-8 jt-fav); 2, Rafiki (S Burrough, 8-1); 3, Wide Boy (A Maguire, 11-8 jt-fav). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Whatever You Like (pu) 4 ran. 1½l, dist. N Twiston-Davies at Cheltenham. Tote: £2.10. DF: £9.40 CSF £10.13.

3.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, SYLVIA BEACH (D Matthews, 12-1); 2, Grenagh (W Marston, 4-1), 3, Heathfield Gale (T Dascombe, 13-8 fav). ALSO RAN. 5 Prize March (pu), 7 Sailor Blue (6th), 11 Chiaroscuro (4th), Surcoat (f), 16 Decided (5th), Leavenworth (ur), 20 Notary-Nowell, 25 Grotius (pu), 33 Noble Eyre (pu). 12 ran. 3l, 15l, 12l, 12l, 20l P Murphy at Bristol. Tote: £14.30; £2.20, £1.90, £1.70. DF: £89.60. Trio: £26.50. CSF. £62.82. Tricast. £115.04

Placepot: £53.20.

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

1.40 (7f) 1, Just Greenwich (J Quinn, 9-2); 2, Charlies Dream (6-1), 3, He Shall Reign (20-1). Private Fixture 7-2 fav. 8 ran. 1½l, 1½l. P Evans. Tote: £6.00; £1.90, £1.90, £3.30. DF. £89.20 CSF: £27.29 Tricast: £398.23.

2.10 (6f) 1, Assignment (T Williams, 5-1); 2, Love Legend (5-1), 3, Super Benz (7-1). 11 ran. NR: First Option, See Devil. 2l, 5l. J Fitch-Heyes. Tote: £3.40; £1.40, £1.50, £1.60. DF £7.10 CSF. £14.04 First Option, 2-1 fav, withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 applies to all bets. Deduct 30p in the £.

2.40 (7f) 1, Faez (C Rutter, 8-1): 2, Dream Carrier (11-2), 3, Letsbeonestaboutit (12-1). Pusey Street Boy 3-1 fav. 8 ran. 4l, ½l J Arnold. Tote £12.10, £2.00, £1.60, £2.50. DF: £84.90. Trio £73.90 CSF: £46.46. Tricast £474.13

3.10 (1m 4f) 1, Mad Militant (K Darley, 11-4 fav): 2, Elementary (20-1), 3, Strat's Legacy (5-1). 9 ran. 4l, 2l R Hollinshead. Tote £5.30; £1.60, £6.70, £2.10. DF: £122.00. Trio: £130.10. CSF £49.30. Tricast £249.97

3.40 (6f) 1. Abbots Daughter (A Clark, 14-1); 2, Ovalworld (33-1). 3, Four Of Spades (4-1 jt-fav). Floating Trial 4-1 jt-fav. 13 ran. 1l, 2l. B McMahon. Tote. £23.30; £4.10, £12.30, £2.20. DF: £465.40. CSF: £324.03

4.10 (1m 100yd) 1, Lochore (Dale Gibson, 6-1); 2, Midnight Jazz (2-1 fav) 3, Nashaat (6-1). 9 ran. NR: Aitch N'Bee, Leolene Pokey, Malcesine. 5l, 3½l. R Ingram. Tote: £6.20; £1.90, £1.40, £2.70. DF: £6.80. Trio: £24.10. CSF. £14.91. Tricast £55.97.

Placepot: £159.40.

☐ Wetherby abandoned — Snow.

AMSTRAD PCW8512 WORD PROCESSOR SCOOP PURCHASE!

LAST FEW - PHONE NOW!
This is positively your last opportunity to acquire this unbeatable value for money word processing system

A fantastic Brands Direct scoop purchase enables you to acquire, new and fully guaranteed, the legendary Amstrad PCW8512 dedicated word processing system at a truly unbelievable price.

■ Ideal for business, home, students and budding authors
Probably more authors have seen their ideas brought to life on the Amstrad PCW8512 than on any other single model of typewriter or word processor in the world!

■ Professional looking work - simply!
Even if you're a first time computer user, the PCW8512's ease of operation will enable you to produce professional looking letters and documents straight away.

■ All you need in one box - plug in and go!
The PCW8512 system comes with everything you need to start word processing in one box comprising system unit incorporating 512 Kb RAM and a 368 Kb RAM disk drive; a high-resolution green monitor; a printer with 'NLQ' (near letter quality) and speedy 'draft' mode outputs, plus single sheet or continuous stationery capability; an 82 key, keyboard; fullword processing software.

■ Strictly limited stocks
We regret stocks are strictly limited on this sensational offer, so call us now to avoid disappointment!

ONLY £199
EX. VAT, DELIVERY & INS
TOTAL PRICE INC. VAT, DELIVERY & INS. £251.45

PCW8512 Specification> Z80A CPU ● 512 Kb RAM ● 368 Kb RAM disk drive ● 180 Kb floppy disk drive ● Monitor with green screen, 90 cols. & 32 lines of text ● CP/M Plus with GSX and Dr Logo software ● Printer with high-speed draft and letter quality output, single sheet or tractor feed ● 12 months guarantee.

RUN OTHER BUSINESS PROGRAMS
The Amstrad PCW8512 is so versatile that, as well as word processing, it can also run numerous other business programs.

CALL NOW ON FREEPHONE
0800 881 100
THE CALL WILL COST YOU NOTHING
EXPERT ADVICE FREELY GIVEN

BRANDS DIRECT PLEDGE

BRANDS DIRECT

Quest for perfection and pocket money

Andrew Longmore hears about the solitary search for mastery of the green baize from Peter Ebdon, one of snooker's rising talents

Ebdon practises in his "potting shed", an outhouse in the garden of his Wellingborough home. Photograph: Paul Martin

From the age of 15, when he first discovered that ancient Greek and Latin were less hypnotic than the click of snooker balls, Peter Ebdon has been obsessive about the game of snooker. He was heading for a high-flying academic career until snooker usurped his energy, his concentration and his life. Instead of taking eight O levels, he left school and continued his education at the King's Cross Snooker Club in London under the experienced eyes of veterans like Joe O'Boye and Eugene Hughes.

Looking back now, five years later and with his first big pay cheque, £60,000 for winning the Skoda grand prix, spent not on the sponsors' product but on a new Mercedes, with the rest tucked away for one of those rainy days when winning is the hardest thing in the world, Ebdon is as terrified by the gamble he took as his parents and schoolteachers were at the time. But snooker has that effect on impressionable youth and Ebdon fell helplessly under the spell. He still is, even though he is ranked No 9 in the world. "The bottom rung of the top ladder," as he terms it.

This week, Christmas holiday or not, Ebdon will spend much of his working day inside what he calls his "potting shed", a simple outhouse at the bottom of his garden in the gentle suburbs of Wellingborough. This is Ebdon's office. Sometimes he will practise with his brother-in-law, Gary Baldry, a fellow professional, but mostly on his own. He does not have a coach because he enjoys the independence, the solitude that snooker, above all sports, encourages. If there are mistakes to be made, he will make them and eradicate them himself. Like most of the others, he learnt his profession by watching and imitating, not by following the textbook or listening to a hired hand.

Ebdon's next match is not until the second week of January, a final qualifying round for the world championships in Sheffield in April, and already he is working up to six hours a day, perfecting his technique, honing his cueing action so that mind and body can work in perfect harmony, even in moments of extreme stress.

In the week leading up to a tournament and depending on how well he feels he is playing, Ebdon might work an eight-hour day, divided into four slabs of two hours, a mind-sapping schedule which betrays the hard-drinking image of the game fashioned by mavericks like Alex Higgins and Jimmy White.

The new generation of players such as Ebdon, Ronnie O'Sullivan, Alan McManus and James Wattana come straight from the Steve Davis school of innocent killers. Ebdon has the complexion of a schoolboy and the discipline of a monk. He is not interested in the technical aspects of the cueing action in the way Davis is, only in grooving his own style and hardening his mind so that when he gets to the table he will not lose for lack of preparation.

A WORKING LIFE IN SPORT

"When you get a difficult ball, if you've practised eight hours you'll pot it naturally," he said. "Won't even think about it. If you've not been putting in the work, you won't be as confident."

By winning his first important grand prix event earlier this season, Ebdon has virtually ensured that his semi-professional days of pounding up and down motorways in his battered Rover, playing all day and most of the night for a few hundred pounds, are over for good. Provided he keeps his place in the top 16 next season, he is guaranteed to make £42,000 even if he does not pot a ball. Realistically, he should make three or four times that, supplementing his tournament earnings with one-night exhibitions at clubs, for which he can now charge up to £750.

Outside the top 32 in the world, it is still hard to earn a consistent living. Ebdon, for example, had to win more than 60 qualifying matches in his first season before he won a ranking point. When he did become an overnight headline by beating Davis in the first round of the world championships in 1992, it was his ninth match in the tournament. This year, he has appeared on *Big Break* and commentated for Sky television.

During a tournament, Ebdon will leave no detail to chance. If his first match is at 10am, he will establish a routine a few days before so he is ready to play at the right time. In the later stages of an event, it is harder to establish a routine. He will warm up on a practice table for 20 minutes and make sure he eats something during the interval to keep up his strength. "Snooker is more physically demanding than it looks," he said. "By the end of a long match, you are totally drained, mentally and physically."

At the world championships, Ebdon will go home to his wife and new baby daughter between his first and second round matches, to get away from the oppressive atmosphere which hangs over the toughest fortnight in the game.

Socialising is kept to a minimum. Ebdon is friendly with his main rivals, but only so far. Since Barry Hearn dragged the game into the age of television soap opera, snooker has become more of a team event. Players, on the whole, will stay inside the protective enclave of their management team, eating with members of the same stable and rarely fraternising with those from other camps.

Ebdon will often be driven to tournaments by his team's road manager, travelling light, a dress shirt, bow-tie, and cue, the same one he bought seven years ago for £22 from a sports shop on the Holloway Road in London, his only luggage.

Ebdon is managed by Troy Dante, once of Troy Dante and the Infernos, the Sixties pop group, and a relative newcomer to snooker management. Tony Drago, John Virgo and Joe Swail are in the same stable and any victory over one of Ian Doyle's men — Stephen Hendry, Gary Wilkinson or Ken Doherty — or Hearn's depleted team of Davis and O'Sullivan, is greeted with particular glee in the backroom.

Styles of management differ as much as styles of play. "Some players would jump out of the window if their manager asked them to do it," Ebdon said. "I'm not a 'yes' man. I like to make up my own mind."

To Ebdon, snooker is a profession, a love, a way of life. He can think of nothing he would rather be doing to earn a living. "It's appreciating something I'm good at and knowing it's up to me. I needn't practise for two months if I don't want to, but it will be down to me when I don't get the results. I like that. It's in my hands. If I practise as hard as I can, I have a good chance of making it all the way."

TOMORROW

Mike Watkinson, cricketer

Hammond makes light of latest success

BY PETER BRYAN

ROGER Hammond, last year's amateur junior world cyclo-cross champion and now competing at senior level, yesterday took time out of his university studies to put in a rigorous training routine in a farmer's field near his home at Chalfont St Peter, in Buckinghamshire. For Hammond, the training circuit was ideal, combining hard climbs, tricky descents and stretches of running.

His morale this winter has been boosted by four convincing wins over Steve Douce, Britain's professional champion, the latest on Monday, when he finished 52sec ahead of the title-holder at Macclesfield. He also leads Douce in the national trophy series, which has its finale the week before next month's world championship in Belgium, which is being held on an "open" basis for the first time.

Hammond, 19, believes there is no secret behind this season's good form, but though his training programme has not changed, his eating habits have. As a result, he has lost 18lb and, in cyclo-cross, which always has a fair proportion of running, a lightweight competitor generally has the advantage over a heavier rival.

Hammond, though, faces a double disadvantage in the world championship on the Koksijde circuit, much of which is through deep sand: the first is that he faces all of Europe's outstanding professionals — aware that there are no medals for the highest-placed amateurs in the event — and the second is his leg-length.

"I know the course and it is completely different from any I have ridden, requiring a lot of running in the sand," Hammond said. "Then it is helpful to have long legs. Unfortunately, mine are short."

His next encounter with Douce could be on Sunday at Southampton, the venue for the 1994 British championship, which is being held a week later.

Hammond is still undecided whether to race there next weekend, believing it might be more time-effective to carry on with his training closer to home rather than making a round trip of around six hours going south to Hampshire.

England A maintain all-conquering path

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN CAPE TOWN

FITTINGLY, it was Hugh Morris, the captain, who hit the winning run yesterday as England A vanquished Western Province by ten wickets here to maintain their 100 per cent record on this tour.

In scrutinising the victory some perspective is useful. Western Province were without Brian McMillan, Gary Kirsten and Craig Matthews, who are representing the national side in Australia. All the same they head the Castle Cup, the domestic championship, with three wins from four matches.

Make of it what you will. The fact remains that England have won all eight games so far and have beaten their opponents in the first-class fixtures by nine wickets, an innings and 70 runs and now ten wickets, twice inside three days and on each occasion after losing the toss.

Fortunately there is no risk of this agreeable group of young players getting too big for their boots. Their fielding has been so lamentable that an overall improvement is unavoidable and, as Morris admits, absolutely essential if they are to carry their winning form into the New Year.

If they had held all the chances they missed at Port Elizabeth, they could have caught the boat to Cape Town. The performance during Western Province's second innings was by no means as lax: neither was it very good. Dale, at long leg, and Cork, at gully, both grassed chances they would expect to hold, and the general out-cricket remained slovenly.

Dale, who has a cracked finger in his left hand, atoned for his error by taking a far more difficult catch, low down on the run, to dismiss Martyn, the ninth wicket. He should then have ended the innings, when MacHelm and Ryall got their signals crossed, but threw instead over the head of the advancing Rhodes. It was junior house match stuff.

In fact it was hard to detect any signs of intelligence in the closing overs of the innings. Ilott and Gough, who had bowled well at the proper batsmen, peppered MacHelm, who is one of life's most authentic No 11s, with senseless bouncers when three straight balls in the blockhole would have sufficed.

At the other end, the field spread out to offer Ryall a single wherever he wanted. You wanted to shout: "Knock his poles out, for goodness sake! He's not exactly Victor Trumper". At such times the moderate man begins to sound like F. S. Trueman.

Gough is from Trueman country, more or less, and has something of his great predecessor's stockiness. Memorably described as "the son of a Barnsley rat-catcher" at the time of his first-class debut in 1989, he has bowled commendably on this tour, in the absence of McCague and Bicknell, and even if he doesn't bowl another ball he can return to England richer for the experience.

Gough finished the match with seven wickets, four of them as Western Province struggled to 178, a single run more than they made on the first day. Ilott found the best ball of the day for Simons, one of three wickets which gave him match figures of six for 68. Cork bowled straight and, importantly, Croft lured Kuiper to his doom with his arm ball.

By stumping him, Rhodes possibly saved England from a lot of ball-chasing, because Kuiper is a dominant type of player when "in". In this match he and Carlisle Best contributed just six runs. Among the Western Province players, only Dawson, Gibbs and Jordaan left much impression.

It was easy to sympathise with Best, for it is never pleasing to watch good players losing their grasp. Every innings taxes his nerve and, by pushing Gough to short mid-off almost in slow motion, it didn't hold yesterday. How he must have envied the ease with which Lathwell pulled Dawson for six as England made the 35 runs needed.

Gough: seven wickets

SCOREBOARD

WESTERN PROVINCE: First Innings 177 (D Jordaan 65).

Second Innings

S G Koenig lbw b Cork	34
D Jordaan lbw b Gough	13
C A Best c Croft b Gough	1
H H Gibbs c Rhodes b Gough	43
A P Kuiper st Rhodes b Croft	5
*E O Simons c Rhodes b Ilott	22
A C Dawson c Crawley b Gough	3
†R J Ryall not out	24
M W Pringle lbw b Cork	1
A Martyn c Dale b Ilott	13
D MacHelm c Crawley b Ilott	1
Extras (b 4, lb 10, w 2, nb 2)	18
Total	178

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-29, 2-35, 3-64, 4-75, 5-117, 6-124, 7-142, 8-143, 9-165.

BOWLING: Ilott 21-7-28-3, Gough 21-3-57-4, Dale 3-0-15-0, Cork 16-6-36-2, Croft 14-4-30-1.

ENGLAND A: First Innings 321 (M B Loye 68, A Dale 64, J P Crawley 51, A C Dawson 5-42)

Second Innings

M N Lathwell not out	22
*H Morris not out	12
Extras (w 1)	1
Total (no wkt)	35

BOWLING: Pringle 5-1-12-0; Dawson 5-0-23-0.

Umpires: C Mackley and R Brooks.

Injured batsman enters on crutches

ROWAN Lyle, the Eastern Province fast bowler, guaranteed himself a lasting place in cricket history by going out to bat on crutches in the Castle Cup match against Transvaal in Johannesburg yesterday.

Lyle, who broke his foot while bowling on Monday, emerged from the pavilion at the fall of the ninth wicket — complete with crutches, a runner and a man to carry his bat.

When he got to the middle the umpires ordered the crutches back to the pavilion, forcing Lyle to hop to the batting crease to keep the weight off his damaged foot, which was in plaster.

He faced three balls without scoring while sharing a last-wicket partnership of 23 with his captain, Eldine Baptiste, who was eventually dismissed for 60.

Lyle said afterwards that Baptiste had sent him a message at the drinks break asking if he would be able to bat. "I thought about it for a while, then had a couple of shots and decided to do it," Lyle said. "I must admit I wasn't sure how successful I would be, my batting's not that good anyway."

The runs added for the last wicket could yet prove vital, for Eastern Province's second-innings score of 217 left Transvaal needing 252 to win. They finished the third day at 124 for three.

Colin Cowdrey resumed his second innings in the Lord's Test against West Indies in 1963 with a broken arm in plaster and a sling but did not face a ball, David Allen safely negotiating the last two deliveries of the match from Wes Hall, making no attempt to score the six runs England needed to win.

Taylor frustrates South Africa

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN MELBOURNE

FOR a cricketer who allegedly no longer knows where his next cap is coming from, Mark Taylor's revision of the record book takes some believing. This blighted first Test between Australia and South Africa is heading nowhere, after a third seriously curtailed day, but Taylor's much-interrupted innings took him close to achievements that would mock the many who would have him replaced in the Australian side.

In the 129 minutes of cricket possible on another damp and depressing day, Taylor advanced to 63, within one run of 1,000 Test runs in the calendar year and within sight of becoming the first player to make centuries on his first appearance against four countries. He has batted through the 254 minutes of this game to date and, the way things are shaping up, he could carry his bat to the end.

Taylor's style is not pretty, its inspiration tenacity. His physique is squat, his movements inelegant and there are days when he seems to need improbable good fortune to survive and produces few, if any, memorable strokes. But the same was said of John Edrich and Bill Lawry, fellow left-handers who shared Taylor's lack of public appeal, technicians appreciated more when they were gone.

There has been a campaign here to dispense with Taylor and summon Matthew Hayden, seven years his junior and with a first-class average this season of 118. But the agitators come mostly from Queensland, Hayden's home state, and their case smacks of the parochialism described yesterday as "amazing, almost unhealthy" by Bob Simpson, the Australia coach. "Sometimes it is not in the interests of the players to be pushed so hard," Simpson added.

Hayden may be a good prospect, but Taylor's record is incontrovertible. This is his fiftieth Test and he is within 53 runs of 4,000, his average an imposing 48. In the ten Tests in which he has opened with the impulsive Michael Slater, the pair's average stand is in the 70s.

Yesterday, as so often, Taylor's progress was stealthy, even stilted. Only when fed the short ball wide of off stump, which Allan Donald offered too often, did he express himself as anything other than a recluse. He does not look in fluent form, but then he seldom does, and he seldom fails either.

Comparing Taylor with David Boon is akin to comparing rough leather with silk. Throughout the grey morning, Boon struck the ball sweetly, looking in such control that it was a shock when, in the last over before lunch, Craig Matthews, who looks no more potent than the third seamer of a modest county side, bowled him off an inside edge.

Taylor, of Australia, unbeaten after 254 minutes

By then Boon had become Australia's fourth highest scorer in Test cricket, overhauling Neil Harvey. But the remaining statistics of this ill-fated occasion concern the weather, which yesterday brought a hint of desperate measures from the Australian Cricket Board (ACB).

Monday was the second wettest December day in Melbourne since records began almost 150 years ago. It was also one of the coldest. With yesterday's drizzle and dullness banishing any prospect of a genuine finish, various alternatives were discussed.

The Australia players were willing to add on a sixth day, despite there being only two days between this game and the second Test in Sydney. Alan Crompton, the chairman of the ACB, ruled out this idea but said that "discussion in very general terms" had taken place over the notion of abandoning the Test and playing a limited-overs game tomorrow.

The plan, contingent on a fourth badly disturbed day, seems likely to come to nothing, with a forecast of better weather. That it was even contemplated, however, was a measure of the financial distress that the washout this week will cause to Australian cricket's budget.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

M A Taylor not out	63
M J Slater c Kirsten b Donald	32
S K Warne lbw b de Villiers	0
D C Boon b Matthews	25
M E Waugh not out	11
Extras (b 2, lb 5, nb 2)	9
Total (3 wkts, 98.5 overs)	140

*A R Border, D R Martyn, †I A Healy, P R Reiffel, T B A May and C J McDermott to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-57, 2-58, 3-127.

BOWLING: Donald 17 5-2-54-1; de Villiers 20-4-46-1; Matthews 12-4-19-1, Cronje 5-3-11-0; Symcox 4-2-3-0.

SOUTH AFRICA: *K C Wessels, A C Hudson, W J Cronje, D J Cullinan, J N Rhodes, G Kirsten, †D J Richardson, P L Symcox, C R Matthews, P S de Villiers, A A Donald

Umpires: D B Hair and T C Prue.

هكذا من الأصل

Simon Barnes takes a sideways look at English sport's highs and lows in 1993

A year sullied by the curse of the bowler hat

If one image summed up the year, it was Captain Keith Brown, the Grand National starter, a bowler-hatted gent vainly waving his furled flag in the face of unstoppable progress.

This has been Britain's, or England's, *annus coccupibilis*, and the Grand National was indisputably the *coccup coccuporum*. Didn't we all want to shout at the year: "Stop! Go back! Let's start again! Let's go back to the years when Britons ruled the waves and every sport in the calendar to boot!"

But as is usually the case outside Portman Square, the world continued to revolve. The year continued to turn, and as it did so, one *coccup* trod upon another's heels. No matter how much you wave your little red flag, time continues to pass and the days of unquestioned British supremacy retreat further and further into the past.

The legacy of the days of empire and of that worldwide playing-field on which the sun never set has been that we Brits, or, at least, we English, enjoy our sport all wrong. We greet triumph as our historical right: we greet failure, no matter how often it comes, with pained surprise, bewilderment, anger and resentment.

If we could learn anything from this year, it is that England rules neither the world's waves nor its playing fields: that England's rare triumphs should be greeted with surprise and delight, and that disasters should be met with philosophical resignation rather than bilious rancour.

Mind you, that hyper-fit, hyper-xenophobic bunch called the England cricket team deserved a bit of bile after their succession of disasters in India. Graham Gooch's captain's innings with the Madras prawn was in the Captain Brown class: Captain Gooch is awarded the Order of the Bowler Hat.

The England team — supposed to be the best-prepared ever to leave these shores — went out filled with siege mentality, prepared to fight India off by lurking in five-star hotels and by refusing to allow the charms and the glories of this most charming and glorious of countries to contaminate them.

In the eyes of the England cricket team, the world's most fascinating culture was nothing more than a lavatory joke. Try and get the right sort of runs, ho ho.

The let's-get-this-over-with-and-get-home vibes came from the top and paralysed the side right down to the bottom. The folly of the seafood simply put the seal on a tour-long error: it was only a prawn in the game.

The England rugby team has learnt about the joys of success in recent years: this year, it learnt about success's dangers. Confident to a fault, England lost to what was supposed to be a weakened and demoralised Wales. Then followed a triumph of ineptitude, when England lost to Ireland with their worst performance in years.

Mind you, it was a wonderful day to be in Dublin, even if most days are wonderful days to be in Dublin. It was a joyous day to revel in the glories of Blessed Eric Elwood, Blessed Arthur Guinness and a gloriously demented team effort. The final score was 17 pints to three.

The England rugby team regrouped in time to beat the All Blacks on another memorable afternoon; perhaps they have learnt the lessons of defeat. If so, they would do a favour to much of English sport if they could pass them on.

And then to football. With Gazza's crucial yellow card and Graham Taylor's non-stop dithering, it was a year in which disaster approached in slow motion, slowly gathering pace and force, becoming ever more inevitable.

Stuart Pearce became the Madras prawn or Captain Brown of football. He has the knack of being in the right place at the right time when it comes to footballing disaster. He it was who missed his penalty in the World Cup semi-finals in Italy three years ago. His *hara-kiri* back-pass against an Italian mountain-top called San Marino was not the reason for the disaster: it merely summed it all up. Captain Pearce therefore wins the Order of the Bowler Hat.

Mind you, Taylor himself has more than a touch of the Captain Browns. A good sort, Taylor: that is why he got the job. He has always been respectful, respectable and a fitter-in: eminently Lancaster-Gate-able. But he lacked the secondary requirement of the job: knowledge of international football. Now all the red-flag-waving in the world will not put England back together again, not in time for the next World Cup, anyway.

That leaves us celebrating the fraught triumph of a fraughter night in Belfast, when the Republic of Ireland drew with Northern Ireland and scraped through to the World Cup finals.

Northern Ireland played in green, but their supporters wore red, white and blue and they sang of hate all night — or at least, until the equaliser was hammered home. It was the most extraordinary sporting occasion I have attended this year, and the most unforgettable.

And on to the great disaster of the Ashes, and of those four mighty defeats. The man of the summer was, without a doubt, Shane Warne, a man with a face like a pudding, a blob of cream on the top and a leg break like an unchained Rottweiler.

He was not a mystery-making magician, nor a Mowgli-faced child, nor even an enigmatic and silent-mannered old pro. No, this was a beach bum with sunglasses on his hat and the fingers of an avenging angel. The England batsmen gazed at him with the fascination of a lost child at a redback spider. Zoological note: redback spiders live under Australian houses and bite people to death.

The worst thing about Warne's triumph was the supine response of the England players. Gooch played Warne with circumspection, because he has always been good enough to know the difference between timidity and care. Those who followed the same method found themselves undone by fear of failure.

David Gower might have unravelled Warne and courteously wafted him to the boundary. Ian Botham would either have been stumped by ten yards or have blasted Warne back to Sydney. Neither would have been supine; neither would have groped and poked. Crucially, neither would have allowed Warne to dictate the pace of the game. The failure against Warne was a failure of moral courage. So Ted Dexter, surrounded by the hostility of the planets, the *Star* and the *Sun*, voluntarily awarded himself the Order of the Bowler Hat and vanished from sight.

And on, then, to disasters, not of sporting defeat, but of public humiliation. The Grand National that failed to start gave the world its grandest belly-laugh for years, but it took the Olympic voting to show just how far out of touch this country has become.

Did people really believe that the world would come flocking to Manchester for its great quadrennial joy? The Manchester Olympic bid was, in the end, a colossal embarrassment. Manchester has its points (Mancunians save your stamps), but alongside Peking and Sydney, Manchester is in the Diadora League.

Sydney is tomorrow's city, founded as an imperial outpost and come of age as the capital of the southern seas. Nobody in Sydney waves a red flag in the face of progress. Bob Scott, head of the Manchester bid, is awarded the Order of the Bowler Hat.

It must be admitted that all the foregoing leaves us Brits, or at least English, a little bereft when it comes to sporting celebrations. When you look for the British male tennis players to rescue a year from disaster, you know you are in deep trouble.

But the fact of the matter is that the men's singles competition at Wimbledon was, in a quiet way, a triumph. For the first time since 1977 five men reached the second round. Chris Bailey came within a touch of beating that glorious lunatic, Goran Ivanisevic: Andrew Foster got to the last 16 and gave his all against the eventual champion, Pete Sampras. So, 15 cheers in all for Maclagan, Petchey, Foster, Bailey and Wilkinson.

Track and field once again gave us great glories. No sporting year with Linford Christie and Sally Gunnell is a bad one. The two of them should receive the status of Living National Treasures. Their victories in the world championships were perfection: Christie's deserves to be remembered as the finest 100 metres ever run.

But perhaps the biggest and the best cheers should be saved for the England team that actually won the World Cup this year: the England cricket team. The England *women's* cricket team, naturally.

They beat New Zealand in a sumptuous final at Lord's and the player of the match, Jo Chamberlain, gets my vote as superstar of the year. Her crash-bang 38 in 33 balls gave the England innings the acceleration it needed. She took the crucial wicket of Bond, took a catch, and sensationally ran out the key batter, Hockley, with a direct hit from cover. Chamberlain, a delivery driver by trade, lifted sport into an area that no bowler hat can sully.

The moral of the sporting year is this: victory is a fine wine to be sipped and savoured, but defeat is a robust ale to be swigged with good heart. Good health.

President's men rule over Cheam

President's XI	6
Cheam	1

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

CHEAM President's XI achieved its biggest win over the club's first XI in the annual Dick Hollands memorial hockey match at Peaches Close yesterday, after leading 3-1 at half-time.

In spite of the inclement weather the highest traditions of the game were maintained in a relaxed atmosphere, on a day when it did not really matter which side won and when only a few individual reputations were at stake. Jon Molloy, the leading scorer for Surbiton, used his enormous reach to put the President's XI ahead in the sixth minute from a short corner but he failed to add to his tally by hitting several other shots straight at the goalkeeper.

Cheam's equalising goal, obtained from a short corner three minutes later, was scored by Angus Jones, who plays for Reading but was persuaded by his brother, Ken, to appear as a guest for the club, who were one player short.

Cheam remained on equal terms until the 22nd minute, having earlier been given a reprieve when Matt Cox hit a post. Then Paul Mulligan, one of the youngest players on the field, scored a well-taken goal with the help of Neil Pendel for a 2-1 lead which was increased almost on half-time when Simon Cox converted a short corner.

Cheam began the second half in enterprising style, having reorganised their attack. Tim Glasford combined well with Ian Moore, a substitute for Sellwyn Fernandes, but their defence was unable to withstand the increasing pressure from a superior team and Guy Marchant scored the fourth goal with a solo effort in the 47th minute. Pendel rounded off a combined attack by adding the fifth and two minutes before the end Marchant completed the scoring. Five minutes earlier Cheam had been denied a goal when Miles saved well from Glasford.

Among the Cheam players to distinguish themselves were John McPhun and Nick Martin, in defence, and Glyn Jones and Ken Jones up front.

The president's team was led by Ian Pinks at left half, who now plays for Sevenoaks after a distinguished career which reached its highest point in the 1970s when he made 12 appearances for England. He confessed after the match to being a little slower than he was in his heyday, but there were times when he displayed touches of his best form. Richard Harmer played a prominent role in the Cheam attack.

PRESIDENT'S XI: M Miles (Surbiton); D Justesen (Surbiton), T Oddy (Haslemere), W Davies (Wimbledon), S Cox (Slough), I Pinks (Sevenoaks, captain), M Cox (Old Kingstonians), G Marchant (Richmond), J Molloy (Surbiton), N Pendel (Chichester), P Mulligan (Old Walcountians). sub: D Byfield, Old Walcountians).

CHEAM: G Davies, J McPhun, N Martin (captain), A Nightingale, A Jones, S Fernandes, T Glasford, R Harmer, G Douglas, A Jones, K Jones

Umpires: I Moss and G Stent (Southern Counties).

Prean overdue a change of fortune

BY RICHARD EATON

CARL Prean, the English national table tennis champion, hopes to emerge from the most difficult period of one of this country's longest-lasting international careers during the series between England and Japan, which starts at Andover today.

Prean, affected by a wrist injury, lack of confidence, the loss of his job, and now in dispute with his former club, Steinhagen, suffered two narrow but destructive defeats against Belgium in Liège two weeks ago.

One point was the difference between Prean giving England a chance of match victory and an outstanding opportunity of reaching the European League final. Instead, the England men's team were beaten 4-2 and have been left an uphill task in next month's second leg.

A net cord that carried the ball three inches off the table was all that stood between Prean and victory over Philippe Saive. Such a win may have ended Prean's period of self-doubt, which traces back to a wrist operation last summer that put him out of competition for five months and contributed to the upsetting parting of the ways with Steinhagen who, Prean alleges, still owe him money.

Prean, ranked 27th in the world, has given up hope of playing this season in the German Bundesliga, which had become the mainstay of his income, but he hopes to do a deal with another club. He could also salvage great self-satisfaction and status in the next three months, which are packed with international fixtures.

"He's still a great player," Donald Parker, the England manager, said of the stalwart of his side. Prean, from the Isle of Wight, has represented England for 12 years since becoming their youngest male international at 14.

"Carl was gutted by the Belgian match. It's only a matter of confidence and he only needs a few wins to get that. The Japan matches could be the ones in which he gets them," Parker said.

Syed: facing Japan

Prean is short of match practice but, in the four fixtures against Japan which continue at St Austell tomorrow and at Grantham and Bletchley on January 4 and 5, he should play seven or eight singles.

The England squad is completed by Chen Xinhua, the national No 1, Alan Cooke, the former Commonwealth champion, and Matthew Syed, the Oxford University student. The Japanese will include the Matsushita twins, Koji and Yuji.

England's women, led in one match by Lisa Lomas, the European silver medal-winner, and in the other by the national champion, Andrea Holt, have two fixtures against Japan, at Hull on January 4 and at Warwick the next day.

Durham's strength in depth led by Little

HEALTHY rivalries are a boon to any sport, and ice hockey has its fair share: Durham Wasps against Whitley Warriors is one of the longest-standing (Norman de Mesquita writes).

As usual, when these two met at Durham on Monday, a fine game ensued. The Warriors led 5-3 early in the final period, but the Wasps scored six in less than seven minutes to gain a surprising but deserved win. Richard Little was involved in six of the Durham goals but, as usual, the Wasps' strength in depth was a factor, with nine players getting on to the scoresheet.

The Sheffield Steelers and Cardiff Devils are developing a keen rivalry and the Devils have the edge so far. Their 7-5 win in Sheffield was their third success in four meetings this season.

The teams shared eight goals in the first two periods, but Cardiff prevailed in the third. Nicky Chinn was involved with six of the seven Devils goals.

This win consolidated Cardiff's second position in the premier division table, three points behind Fife Flyers with two games in hand.

At the other end of the table, there is a danger that Billingham Bombers and Peterborough Pirates could lose touch with the other clubs. Both were beaten for the second time in two days, by Bracknell Bees and Humberside Hawks respectively. It was a particularly embarrassing evening for the Bombers, who failed to score while the Hawks registered a club record 16 goals.

Nottingham Panthers had a similarly easy win over Basingstoke Beavers, leading 9-0 after two periods on their way to a 10-3 success. Paul Adey scored three goals and added three assists for the Panthers and there were two goals apiece for Andre Malo, Ross Lambert and Graham Waghorn.

There is a full programme this evening with most premier division clubs facing their third game in four days. There is little opportunity for ice hockey players to celebrate the festive season.

RESULTS: British League: Premier division: Durham 10, Whitley Bay 6; Humberside 16, Billingham 0; Nottingham 10, Basingstoke 3; Peterborough 7, Bracknell 13; Sheffield 5, Cardiff 7.

Chargers keep Miami waiting

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

BY BEATING Miami 45-20 on Monday night, San Diego prevented the Dolphins from clinching a place in the play-offs, as the National Football League heads into its final round of regular season games.

Stan Humphries, the Chargers' quarterback, threw for 248 yards and three touchdowns and running back Natrone Means rushed for 118 yards and three more scores to help the Chargers hand the Dolphins their fourth successive defeat.

The Chargers, who are eliminated from play-off contention, exacted a measure of revenge for last season's 31-0 loss to the Dolphins in the divisional play-offs. The points were the most scored by San Diego since September 7, 1986, when the Dolphins were also the victims, on that occasion by 50-28.

Miami have now conceded 92 points in their last two games, the highest two-game total conceded by any team coached by Don Shula in his 31-year career. As part of a run of four defeats, it is a record that has seen what was the league's best performers four weeks ago turned into a more modest 9-6 win-loss account. The Dolphins travel to New England on Sunday to face a revitalised Patriots team (who will be fresh from their 38-0 defeat of Indianapolis), in a match that Miami must win to secure a place in the play-offs.

On Monday night, Means, a 17½-stone rookie running back, busted through the Miami defense for touchdown runs of one and 65 yards on consecutive possessions in the first half, which ended with San Diego taking a 24-13 lead on a 41-yard "Hail Mary" touchdown pass from Humphries to Anthony Miller.

The play was set up by Darren Carrington's interception of Dolphins' quarterback Scott Mitchell. It was one of three interceptions thrown by Mitchell. Carrington's 15-yard return gave the Chargers the ball at their own 47 with 17 seconds left before half-time.

The Chargers marched 57 yards in three plays on the first possession of the second half, taking a 31-13 lead on a 21-yard pass from Humphries to Ronnie Harmon. Humphries hooked up with Miller on a 14-yard scoring toss that capped a 78-yard drive and made it 38-13 with 6:20 in the third quarter.

San Diego piled up 455 yards of total offense and converted ten-of-14 third-down conversions. Humphries, who suffered a concussion in last week's loss to Kansas City, completed 19-of-29 passes. Miller caught seven balls for 110 yards.

Nine of the 12 play-off spots have been filled, with seven teams — the Dolphins, New York Jets, Pittsburgh Steelers, Los Angeles Raiders, Minnesota Vikings, New Orleans Saints and Philadelphia Eagles — all in contention for the final berths.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Corsie looks forward to confidence boost

RICHARD Corsie, of Edinburgh, the world indoor singles champion, leads a strong field assembled for the Blackpool Borough Classic singles which starts today (David Rhys Jones writes). The event pits eight invited players against eight qualifiers with the greatest interest likely to involve how the local men – generally crown green exponents who disdain a level playing field – adjust to what is supposed to be a flat green.

With only seven weeks left before the world championships begin at Preston, a good performance would boost Corsie's confidence, but he can expect tough competition from the local club champion, Ted Mitchell, and Mark Entwhistle, of Ely, in his opening round-robin matches. Willie Wood, another Scotsman, and Hugh Duff, the 1988 world champion, are joined by Steve Rees, the 1986 UK champion from Swansea, while England's hopes rest on Wynne Richards, Mervin King and Greg Harlow.

Cash beaten on return

TENNIS: John Fitzgerald, of Australia, defeated Pat Cash, his compatriot, 6-7, 6-0, 6-3 in the round-robin Colonial Classic tournament in Melbourne yesterday to spoil the former Wimbledon champion's return after a 12-month lay-off. This event last year was the last that Cash played, the knee injury that forced the 1987 Wimbledon champion to withdraw ultimately requiring surgery.

Rain had forced the cancellation of the first two days of the tournament, which was due to have been played on the grass courts at Kooyong. Yesterday, the tournament moved on to the harder, and dry, court under the roof of the National Tennis Center, which caused Cash some concern for his injury. But he said his knee did not affect his game. "I haven't been sitting around over the last year for nothing – I'm going to get out there and win some matches," he said.

Girardelli hits form

SKIING: Although Peter Runggaldier recorded the fastest time in practice yesterday for the men's World Cup downhill race in Bormio, Italy, Marc Girardelli, who was second quickest, is likely to start favourite for today's race. The Italian, who has never won a World Cup race, skied the Stelvio piste in 1min 57.33sec, 0.33sec ahead of Girardelli who won the overall World Cup for a record fifth time last season but has yet to hit peak form in this campaign. He is in seventh position in the overall standings, over 200 points behind the leader, Kjetil-Andre Aamodt, of Norway, who will not be competing today.

Sri Lanka dates set

CRICKET: Sri Lanka will play three Test matches during a five-week tour of India starting next month. The Sri Lankans, who were in India as recently as November to take part in the Bombay centenary tournament, replace Pakistan, who cancelled their tour for security reasons. The Tests will be played in Lucknow, Bangalore and Ahmedabad while three one-day internationals will be held in Rajkot, Hyderabad and Jalandhar.

TOUR ITINERARY: January: 13-15: Board President's XI, Delhi; 19-23: First Test, Lucknow; 27-31: Second Test, Bangalore February: 3-5: Punjab, Nagpur; 9-13: Third Test, Ahmedabad; 15: First one-day international, Rajkot; 16: Second one-day international, Hyderabad; 20: Third one-day international, Jalandhar.

Leicester overwhelm Barbarians with six tries in traditional fixture

Harris points way to record victory

Tony Underwood, who was among the Leicester try-scorers against the Barbarians, is tackled by Lagisquet at Welford Road yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Leicester.....51
Barbarians.....14

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SOME traditions die harder than others, but if the Barbarians are not careful, the glorious Christmas glow that decorates their 84-year-old link with Leicester will fade. Never have they conceded so many points in their 76 visits to Welford Road, nor lost by a larger margin. Not that the Barbarians are panicking yet, despite defeat by six goals, two penalty goals and a dropped goal to two goals.

They have won enough of these matches in the last decade to feel relatively comfortable about the future but, as Geoffrey Windsor-Lewis, their secretary, said: "I don't like heavy defeats, it doesn't do us any good." Such defeats destroy a little more of the mystique in which the Barbarians were once cloaked. One remedy is to bring in more overseas guests to avoid the intensity of the domestic programme, which makes the life of the invitation club difficult. The sponsorship of Scottish Amicable makes that more feasible but it does not necessarily mean a scratch combination will beat a club unit flying as high as Leicester.

Nor can the Barbarians do anything about immediate difficulties, such as illness, which deprived them of Andrew Lamerton, injury, which ruled out Scott Hastings, who has a hamstring problem, and travel difficulties, which delayed the arrival of Nigel Meek until 30 minutes before the kick-off and Paddy Johns's departure from Belfast.

"They are all little things, but they don't help overall," Windsor-Lewis said, adding that the club may have to consider bringing the players together earlier to sustain the quality of this game.

A crowd of nearly 16,000, undaunted by overnight snow, enjoyed the occasion nonetheless, even though injuries limited the participation of two of Leicester's leading lights. Neil Back left after the first quarter as a precaution, having strained a knee ligament, and Rory Underwood went off in the final quarter with a finger injury. The pair are unlikely to be unable to take part in England's five nations' championship preparations.

Underwood, in particular, had been enjoying himself. He has been known to drift out of games, but his contribution here was as keen as ever and it brought him his first club try of the season, Leicester's second of the match.

Leicester were able to treat much of the game as an exercise in recycled ball, an exercise at which Richards and Garforth demonstrated fly-paper hands and set up unlimited opportunities for their backs against a defence whose organisation, inevitably, left something to be desired.

None took greater advantage in terms of ground gained than Potter, or Harris for points scored. The stand-off half kicked every conversion, two penalty goals and a dropped goal, and added a try for an individual total of 26 points – ten more than any player had previously achieved in this fixture.

Leicester led 20-7 at the interval after soaring into a 17-point lead. The preparatory work of Wells throughout the match was exemplary and he made sufficient inroads for Potter to dummy his way over untouched. After the older Underwood's try, Rayer orchestrated the Barbarians' response by splitting the defence and sending in Lagisquet.

Rayer showed the sort of form which should interest the Wales selectors later this week. He played a key role in Sleightholme's well-taken try, but at 30-14 Leicester remained well out of reach. Harris dropped his tenth goal of the season just before the interval and Rowntree completed a try which owed much to Rory Underwood's strength and Wells's support.

In the last five minutes, Tony Underwood took a reverse pass from Harris to scythe his way over and Johnson, enjoying himself immensely, stormed down the centre of the field to set up Potter for his second try. The late flurry consigned the previous record margin of victory, 26 points, set in 1910, and Leicester's highest previous score, in the 48-30 triumph in 1987, to history.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Potter (2), R Underwood, Rowntree, Harris, T Underwood. Conversions: Harris (6). Penalty goals: Harris (2). Dropped goal: Harris. Barbarians: Tries: Lagisquet, Sleightholme. Conversions: Chalmers (2).

LEICESTER: W Kilford; T Underwood, S Potter, L Boyle, R Underwood; J Harris, A Kardooni; G Rowntree, R Cockerill, D Garforth, J Wells, M Johnson, M Poole, N Back, D Richards (captain). T White replaced Back (22min); J Hamilton replaced R Underwood (63).

BARBARIANS: M Rayer (Cardiff and Wales); J Sleightholme (Wakefield), P de Glanville (Bath and England), H Woodland (Neath), P Lagisquet (Biarritz and France); C Chalmers (Melrose and Scotland), R Howley (Cardiff); M Griffiths (Cardiff and Wales), N Meek (Pontypridd and Wales), E McKenzie (PUC and Australia), C Sheasby (Harlequins), P Johns (Dungannon and Ireland), A Macdonald (Heriot's FP and Scotland), A Robinson (Bath and England, captain), S Williams (Neath).

Referee: C Thomas (Wales).

Morrison lifts Scotland's spirits

Scotland A.....24
Ireland A.....9

BY ALAN LORIMER

SUCCESS finally returned north of the border with a substantial Scottish victory over Ireland in the A rugby union international at Millbrae yesterday.

Scotland's selectors, who will announce their trial teams today, badly needed to see their senior team contenders playing positive rugby; they were rewarded for their forbearance as the A side ran in three tries against an Ireland team that never really threatened the Scottish line.

Yet for all their unconcealed satisfaction, the Scotland selectors must be aware that given the composition of their A team, nothing other than a wholesome victory would have been acceptable.

The Ireland A side contained at most only three genuine contenders for the national team, whereas Scotland, because of their need to build confidence after the New Zealand debacle, fielded many of the players, who will be considered for selection against Wales at Cardiff Arms Park on January 15.

Scotland's performance was enhanced by the presence of Iain Morrison, who despite having only recently returned to the game after a long break though injury, looked back to the form that made him one of the best open-side flankers in the five nations championship last season.

A fully fit Morrison seems certain to return to the Scotland team against Wales in a back row likely to contain Rob Wainwright, one of the other outstanding contributors to the Scotland effort.

Both back-row players showed their ball-winning skills, with Morrison's support play the exemplary feature of the London Scot's game.

The other impressive Scottish forward was Shade Munro, who is in line for a first cap against Wales.

A well-judged kick by Stark created the position for Scotland's first try, Townsend cutting inside to give Morrison the touchdown.

Crisp handling by the Scotland backs and a kick ahead by Ken Milligan allowed Wainwright to follow up for the second try, but it was Scotland's third score that brought most pleasure. Andy Nicol and Logan interpassed before Morrison, acting as the vital link, gave Munro the try-scoring pass.

Alan McGowan accounted for all the Ireland points with three penalty goals.

SCORERS: Scotland A: Tries: Morrison, Wainwright, Munro. Conversions: Townsend (3) Penalty goal: Townsend. Ireland A: Penalty goals: McGowan (3).

SCOTLAND A: K Logan (Stirling County); K Milligan (Stewart's-Melville FP), S Nichol (Selkirk), I Jardine (Stirling County), D Stark (Boroughmuir); G Townsend (Gala), A Nicol (Dundee High School FP); A Sharp (Bristol), K McKenzie (Stirling County, captain), P Wright (Boroughmuir), P Walton (Northampton), S Munro (Glasgow High/Kelvinside), G Weir (Melrose), I Morrison (London Scottish), R Wainwright (Edinburgh Academicals).

IRELAND A: C Clarke (Terenure College); S Geoghegan (London Irish), D Dooley (London Irish), M McCall (Bangor), N Woods (Blackrock College), A McGowan (Blackrock College), N Hogan (Terenure College, captain); H Hurley (Old Wesley), K Wood (Garryowen), P Clohessey (Young Munster), E Halvey (Shannon), D Tweed (Ballymena), B Rigney (Greystones), L Toland (Old Crescent), P Lawlor (Active Rangers).

Referee: D Davies (Wales)

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): San Diego 45 Miami 20.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Orlando 122 Sacramento 110; Charlotte 109 Detroit 94, Washington 96 Milwaukee 87, Utah 97 Minnesota 93; Phoenix 118 Boston 102; Los Angeles Clippers 96 Philadelphia 86

CRICKET

CASTLE CUP: East London: Boland 238-4 v Border Match abandoned as a draw. Johannesburg: Eastern Province 160 and 217 (M Hobson 7-61), Transvaal 126 and 124-3 (B White 58), Durban: Natal 345; Northern Transvaal 103-4.

TOUR MATCH: Colombo: England Under-19 XI 191 and 147-3 (M Trescothick 53); Colombo and District CA 171-7 dec. Match drawn.

DARTS

PURFLEET: Essex Skol world championship: Group A: D Priestley (Eng) bt J Wilson (Scot) 3-2, Group B: L Butler (US) bt J Lowe (Eng) 3-2

MOTOR RALLYING

PARIS-DAKAR RALLY: First stage (Paris-Chailly, 4km): Cars: 1, B Saby (Fr) Mitsubishi, 5min 46sec; 2, P Lartigue (Fr) Citroen, same time; 3, D Auriol (Fr) Citroën, at 12sec; 4, E Weber (Ger) Mitsubishi, 13; 5, S Servia (Sp) Lancia, 19; 6, J-P Fontenay (Fr) Mitsubishi, 33; 7, A Nikolaenko (Russ) Lada, 38; 8, K Shinozuka (Japan) Mitsubishi, 40; 9, C Arnoux (Fr) Buggy, 43; 10, H Masuoka (Japan) Mitsubishi, 45. Motorcycles: 1, H Kumgadner (Austria) KTM, 5min 30sec; 2, F Meoni (It) Honda, at 12sec; 3, S Staun (Sp) KTM, 13; 4, J Arcarons (Sp) Cagiva, 13; 5, T Magnaldi (Fr) Honda, 15; 6, L Charbonnel (Fr) Kawasaki, 16.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 0 Philadelphia 2; Ottawa 3 Boston 5; Chicago 5 Toronto 2; Dallas 0 Detroit 6; St Louis 2 Montreal 5, Edmonton 6 Winnipeg 0

OSTRAVA, Czech Republic: World junior championships: Canada 5 Germany 2, United States 1 Switzerland 1; Sweden 3 Russia 0; Finland 7 Czech Republic 3

TENNIS

TELFORD: Midland Bank national 16 and under championships: Boys: First round: D Stuk (Lincs) bt D Trainor (Cheshire) 6-3, 5-7, 7-6; A Phillips (Sussex) bt D Thompson (Lancs) 6-2, 6-3, A Palmer (Herts) bt A MacDonald (E Scot) 6-3, 6-2; W Sawyer (Norfolk) bt T Wride (Warwicks) 6-1, 6-2; C Edmondson (Lancs) bt D Crawley (Norfolk) 6-1, 6-2; I Bates (Hants and IOW) bt J Sandham (Devon) 6-1, 6-3; W Herbon (Middx) bt J Copperman (Norfolk) 6-0, 6-2; S Levy (Essex) bt J Taylor (Glocs) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3; S Pender (Cornwall) bt R Barham (Essex) 6-0, 6-1; S Clark (Warwicks) bt J Stewart (Middx) 6-0, 6-2; A Kershaw (Durham and Cleveland) bt M Hilton (Cheshire) 6-2, 6-0; P Lacoa (Dorset) bt O Harrison (Devon) 7-6, 6-2; J Layne (Cambs) bt T May (Kent) 6-3, 6-4; N Watts (Wilts) bt D Belcher (Cheshire) 6-4, 6-1; D Nzekwu (Middx) bt R Hill (Herts) 6-3, 6-1; A Harbott (Middx) bt N Beach (Surrey) 6-2, 6-1; J Monk (Sussex) bt S Dutson (Cheshire) 6-0, 6-0, P Delacado (Berks) bt A Barnes (Cambs) 7-5, 2-6, 6-2, A McPherson (Durham and Cleveland) bt P Fish (Warwicks) 6-4, 6-2, D Keenan (Durham and Cleveland) bt J Drummond (Notts) 6-3, 6-3; S Amey (Derbys) bt J Rose (Suffolk) 6-1, 6-3, N Crowther (Yorks) bt T Greenland (Oxford) 6-3, 6-2; N Plappert (Essex) bt K Pearce (Warwicks) 6-0, 6-4; D Curtis (Cheshire) bt B Caudell (Middlesex) 7-5, 3-6, 6-2; C Ingham (Lancs) bt S Sarri (Sussex) 6-4, 6-1; B Haran (Hants and IOW) bt A Wakefield (Notts) 6-2, 6-0; M Gorvin (Avon) bt D Sherwood (Yorks) 6-0, 6-1, D Gatzwell (Hants and IOW) bt F Jagger (Yorks) 6-7, 6-4, 6-2, N Rushton (Lancs) bt G Arbor (Kent) 6-2, 6-7, 6-4, P Warren-Tape (Surrey) bt M Price (Wales) 6-0, 6-2, D Galasso (Kent) bt A Radix (Middx) 3-6, 6-4, 6-1; M Lunn (Avon) bt M Wada (Kent) 6-0, 6-2.

MELBOURNE: Round-robin tournament: Men: J Fitzgerald (Aus) bt P Cash (Aus) 6-7, 6-0, 6-3; T Woodbridge (Aus) bt T Muster (Austria) 7-5, 3-6, 6-1; B Steven (NZ) bt E Sánchez (Sp) 6-2, 7-5; A Volkov (Russ) bt K an (Aus) bt S Hack (Ger) 6-4, 7-5, J Byrne (Aus) bt A Simadova (Cz) 7-6, 6-2; N Provis (Aus) bt C Tanner (Fr) 6-3, 6-1

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Bitter Championship

First division

Leigh	14	Sheffield	24				

Leigh: Tries: Dawes, Hanger, Warburton. Goals: Davies. Sheffield: Tries: David Fitzsoe, Plange, Powell, Price, Stott. Goals: Aston 2. Att: 1,985

Widnes	10	Warrington	18				

Widnes: Tries: Hadley, Tyrer Goal: Goudding. Warrington: Tries: Forster, Gregory, Shelford. Goals: Davies 3 Att: 7,693.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Warrington	15	12	0	3	318	207	24
Wigan	13	11	0	2	407	207	22
Bradford	13	11	0	2	359	266	22
Halifax	15	9	2	4	324	256	20
Castleford	14	9	1	4	361	187	19
St Helens	15	9	1	5	344	245	19
Featherstone	15	7	1	7	326	342	15
Widnes	14	7	0	7	241	270	14
Leeds	14	6	1	7	298	264	13
Sheffield	15	6	1	8	300	381	13
Hull	14	5	2	7	201	228	12
Salford	15	6	0	9	254	335	12
Hull KR	15	5	0	10	242	394	10
Oldham	15	4	0	11	273	288	8
Wakefield	15	4	0	11	190	324	8
Leigh	15	0	1	14	179	423	1

Second division

Barrow	26	Carlisle	14
Whitehaven	0	Workington	0

Postponed: Keighley v Huddersfield.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Huddersfield	14	12	0	2	353	185	24
Workington	15	11	1	3	333	165	23
London Crus	13	9	1	3	366	259	19
Keighley	12	9	0	3	335	178	18
Dewsbury	12	8	1	3	402	177	17
Ryedale York	14	8	1	5	309	248	17
Whitehaven	15	8	4	5	271	207	16
Barrow	14	8	0	6	313	306	16
Doncaster	13	8	0	5	295	294	16
Batley	12	7	0	5	226	233	14
Rochdale	13	5	0	8	278	266	10
Carlisle	13	5	0	8	252	346	10
Swinton	13	4	0	9	245	346	8
Hunslet	14	2	0	12	194	354	4
Bramley	14	1	0	13	187	366	2
Highfield	15	1	0	14	172	602	2

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Postponed: Second round: Shaw Cross v Thatto Heath (rearranged for January 3, 2.0)

RUGBY UNION

International match

Scotland A	24	Ireland A	9

Scotland A: Tries: Morrison, Munro, Wainwright. Cons: Townsend 3 Pen: Townsend
Ireland A: Pens: McGowan 3.

Club matches

Leicester	51	Barbarians	14
Swansea	37	S Wales Police	26

Cancelled: Bradford and Bingley v Keighley

LONDON PROPERTY

SHOW KITCHENS WANTED URGENTLY
WE WILL BUILD YOU A SUPERB KITCHEN AT A FRACTION OF THE NORMAL COST - IF YOU LET US SHOW IT TO 6 PROSPECTIVE CUSTOMERS
This is a genuine offer to enable us to quickly establish a network of LUXURY SHOW KITCHENS across the country to support our national advertising campaign. Over 15 eyecatching ranges with many combination options in a multitude of finishes to choose from.
"PHONE NOW 0582 29404 ASK FOR EXT 5085 CHRIS PLUMMER Sorry no tenants
Arthur Rathbone KITCHENS LIMITED
ARTHUR RATHBONE KITCHENS LTD. The Old Bancroft Building, Kinghant Way, Reginald Street, Luton, Beds LU2 7RG

Superb Accomodation In The Centre Of Beautiful Greenwich Village
1 ONLY NOW AVAILABLE
BRAND NEW LARGE 3 BED HOUSE OF HIGH QUALITY
(Including secure parking)
Price £175,000
OFFERS FOR QUICK SALE &
On this delightful property or
PART EXCHANGE AVAILABLE
for appointment to view please telephone
WARD HOMES: 0634 855111

CITY & WEST END
Where the SQUARE MILE meets the WEST END in BARBICAN
Apartments available including studios from approx £98,000
Daytime call 071 628 4848 or 071 628 4141
Evenings call 071 628 4172

HAMPSTEAD & HIGHGATE
CHALCOT GARDENS NW3 In private road, architecturally designed luxury 2 bed, 2 bath, 1st fl flat. OSP. £174,950. 071 435 9201 or 0831 442258.

SURREY
WINDLESHAM Individual mod det hse o/looking farmlands, 4 (like beds 1 ensuite, 4 recpns, lge kit, utility room, cloakroom, American oak floors throughout, security system, dble garage, manageable gardens £183,000 ono. 0276 452039

FRANCE
FRENCH PROPERTY NEWS Monthly. for a free copy Telephone 081 942 0301.
VEYRON: property 25 HA. Ideal sheep, goats, horses; old farmhouse, renovated, new roof, water, electricity, telephone, kitchen, living, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, shower-room, 3 toilets, heating wood/coal. FF 1,300,000. P Eymard, Castelnau, 12400 Bournac. 010 33 65491757

CHELSEA & KENSINGTON
CHELSEA HOMESEARCH CO We represent the buyer to save time and money.071 937 2281.

COUNTRY PROPERTY
BUDLEIGH SALTERTON DEVON
only a few remaining
A Development of 30 Apartments situated on Cliff Road affording panoramic views over town beach and East Devon Coastline. Included in the specification of all Apartments are video entry systems, fitted kitchens, and fully fitted carpets (except for kitchens) There is one two bed Apartment remaining at £118,500
Other two and three bed Apartments from £155,000
Telephone for further details on 03954 42846/03954 42201
Open all through the Christmas Period except Christmas Day
THE ROSEMULLION (03954) 42846 or (03954) 42201

SPAIN
SPAIN ON SHOW
UK'S LARGEST SPANISH FREEHOLD PROPERTY EXHIBITION
FEATURING SPAIN'S TOP AWARD WINNING DEVELOPERS
APARTMENTS AND VILLAS FROM £29,000
SUNDAY 2ND & MONDAY 3RD JANUARY
10AM TO 6PM (free admission)
HILTON NATIONAL
PURLEY WAY, CROYDON
Anglo Spanish Investments Ltd 081 395 4247

RETIREMENT HOMES
START THE NEW YEAR AT
Elmbridge Village
Established in 1981, this self contained Village is set in 28 acres of private, landscaped gardens, near Guildford, Surrey. Elmbridge has a host of amenities which include a restaurant, theatre, bar, Village Shop and 24 hour emergency nursing care from resident nurses.
Spring, 1994 will see the completion of six newly built houses from £80,000 plus one two bedroom bungalow will be available in March.
Why not start a new life in 1994 at Elmbridge Village?
Call:
Hamptons, Messenger, May
Sundial House, High Street, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8AE. Tel: 0483 273891

RENTALS
AMERICAN/European corporate couples/exec seek quality homes SW1/3/6/7/10 Chelsea & Gazeley 071 589 5481
CHELSEA Lovely sunny Mews house, 2 bed/1 bath, (/turn new) £388 pw 071 352 1931.
CHELSEA SW3 luxury balcony apt. Dble bedrm. Extra light recp. lift. porters 071 622 6826
CHELSEA SW3 Lovely 1 bed 2 recep flat. Sutt Bank. £300pw Gavin Cowper 071 381 6732
EATON SQUARE (off). elegant 1st fl flat fully furn attr. din and twin bed rms + bath + small kit. Yearly let. £275 pw ono. Agents only with certain clients to view. Tel 071 235 6205

PREMIER LOCATION SLOANE AVENUE SW3
Fully serviced spacious air flats. From from £240 per week inclusive of electricity, central heating & hot water, maid service, linen, Health Club, parking, excellent transport & shopping facilities. Short or Calendar Month Rents. 071-584 5317/8 NELL GWYNN HOUSE

AWARD-WINNING ENVIRONMENT
English Courtyard's latest crop of awards recognises the trouble we take with the environment of our developments. Four Daily Mail Green Leaf Awards in 1993 are the most recent in a long line of achievements over 15 years, reflecting our commitment to providing retirement housing for your needs. From the choice of location and layout of the courtyard to the subtle use of local brickwood and roof tiles, we ensure that our houses blend into the landscape, enhancing their surroundings. We want you to benefit from our experience by choosing the exceptional way of life we offer in beautiful locations throughout southern England.
Prices from £95,000 to £215,000. To find out more about our properties in Somerset, Wilts, Bucks, Oxon and Kent, please ring us for a brochure
English Courtyard Association, 8 Holland Street, London W8 4LT. FREEPONE 0800 220858

RENTALS
FIRST CLASS PROPERTY
Spacious/compact. Flat/house. We can help in Belgravia, Hampstead, Kensington, Wimbledon and similar areas.
Phone us now. Birch & Co 071 734 7432 ARLA MEMBER
F.W. GAPP
We offer a personal and professional service to Landlords and Tenants in all aspects of the Letting market and would be delighted to hear from you. ARLA MEMBER
The Property Managers 071-243 0964

مكبرة من الأصل

al fixture

victory.

MUSEUMS page 26
Roll up, roll up for the birth of the world's one and only National Fairground Museum

ARTS

VISUAL ART page 27
Captured on camera: the disturbing video installations of Bill Viola at the Whitechapel

SIX SHOWS THAT SHOCKED THE WORLD: *Times* critics relive the century's cultural sensations

Fisticuffs over her underwear

DAY THREE: One word started a riot at a 1907 Dublin premiere. **Benedict Nightingale** describes the scene

Plenty of plays we now regard as important were first received with disbelief and rage. The supposed impieties of Tartuffe led to calls for Molière's public burning. The cries of indignation that greeted *The Seagull* left Chekhov, who was already seriously sick with consumption, abjectly wandering the snowbound streets until the early hours. For all we know, *Hamlet* was picketed by angry Scandinavians, deranged by Shakespeare's references to the rottenness of Denmark. But nothing matched the fury of the patriotic Irish when they were presented with the first indisputable dramatic masterpiece in their history, Synge's *Playboy of the Western World*.

Mark you, Synge expected trouble, if not the riots that actually ensued. His *Shadow of the Glen*, which ends with a young wife leaving her grumpy old husband for the company of a tramp, had been attacked as a slur on Irish womanhood. After reading the reviews of *The Well of the Saints*, which had not been much better received, Synge told the actor-manager W.G. Fay, "very well, the next play I write, I will make sure will annoy them". That was in 1905. In January 1907 his promise came to fruition in Dublin's Abbey Theatre, home of the Irish National Dramatic Society.

Both Fay and W.B. Yeats, who was the society's president, tried to get Synge to tone down a play they knew might prove offensive. He refused to alter anything but the odd rude word. The female lead, Pegeen, would not be a "decent likeable country girl", as Fay wanted, but a woman wild enough to fall for Christy Mahon, the male lead. And what attracted her, and impressed her fellow-villagers, would still be that he was on the run from the police, having supposedly splintered his father's head with a hoe. The Christian peasantry would be seen romanticising not just violence, not just murder, but the great sin of parricide.

If the BBC had aired its documentary about Mao on top of the Great Helmsman's tomb, the provocation could hardly have been greater. Yet the first-night spectators were amused by the first act. Not until the second were sounds of restlessness heard. The audience did not like the Widow Quin, who comes to Pegeen's "shebeen" to steal Christy from her. Hisses and cat-calls greeted the phrase "bloody fools", which Synge had claimed was a mild expletive in the West of Ireland, where the play was set. But it was a still slighter solecism that cracked open the dam.

Pegeen asks the Widow Quin what she wants, and does not believe the reply, which is some starch. "And you without a white shift or shirt in your family since the drying of the Flood," she cries. At that indecent word, "shift" or chemise, the audience was transformed into what Fay called "a veritable mob of howling devils". The third act began in uproar, continued with fights in the stalls, and threatened to end with the storming of a stage now protected by an axe-wielding call-boy. He swore by all the saints he would slice off the head of the first person to cross the footlights — and, wrote Fay later, "I haven't a shadow of doubt he would have chopped".

Yeats, who was lecturing in Aberdeen, got two telegrams in succession. "Play great success", declared the first. "Audience broke up in disorder at the word shift," said the second. He hurried to Dublin to find growing chaos. There were friends, among them the *Irish Times*, but they were few. The *Freeman's Journal* denounced the play as "an unmitigated, protracted libel upon Irish peasant men and, worse still, Irish peasant girlhood — this hideous caricature," it went on, "would be slanderous of a Kaffir kraal". Could and should a national theatre get away with a travesty far more damaging than the "stage Irishman" beloved of the English?

It is hardly surprising that this theme was much heard in the days ahead. At a time when it could still be argued in England that the Irish were an inferior species, unfitted for self-rule, *The Playboy* took on political significance. If its portrait was true, thundered *Sinn Fein*, "we shall regret that so vile a race be permitted to exist". But if it was untrue the play was the work of "a moral degenerate".

The second night, on Monday January 28, ended in pandemonium, with cries of "kill the author" and the singing of "hurrah for the men of the West" interrupting the din. Tuesday evening was worse, thanks to a phalanx of quiet, inoffensive-looking young men, who turned out to be nationalists bent on wrecking the performance, and an opposing body of students from Trinity College. Contemporary accounts also make much of an "overcoated gentleman of somewhat racing appearance".

He challenged the patriots to fight him, announced "I am a little bit drunk and don't know what I'm saying", then played a somewhat erratic waltz on the piano in the orchestra pit, and was promptly thrown out, only to reappear when Yeats went onstage to try to quell the noise. "Woa you chap there," yelled the man in the overcoat as his own friends started to beat him up. The evening ended with Synge's supporters singing "God Save the King".

Yeats surely exaggerated when he claimed that 500 policemen were needed to cope with the troubles. Nevertheless, Wednesday night was clearly an alarming occasion, with hundreds of people besieging the theatre entrances. They shouted, booed, blew bugles, and waved their fists in Synge's face. Brave man that he was, he had defied both hostility and flu throughout the week, telling journalists that the play was "an extravaganza meant to amuse".

A gentleman in the balcony stood up and announced he was leaving the theatre in protest against immorality, then said he had changed his mind and sat down, and was then thrown out. An Englishman challenged a nationalist to a fight in the vestibule, and scores of people poured out to watch their fisticuffs. Arrests were made. One Piaraos Beaslaoi ended up in court after subjecting Yeats to a fierce torrent of Gaelic which, the poet feebly confessed, he could not understand. The evening ended with rival marches down O'Connell Street.

After that, the situation cooled, thanks largely to the police now patrolling the stalls. On Thursday, the actors managed for the first time to make themselves heard throughout, and Friday was quieter still. But the troubles simmered on. A Western Girl wrote to *The Freeman's Journal* sympathising with Miss Allgood ("a charming actress") for having to use a word "indicating an essential item of female attire which the lady would never utter in ordinary circumstances even to herself". There was a public meeting at the Abbey at which Yeats defended the play in a voice "cracked from screaming and his sore throat", and a medical student caused a mass walkout of women ("their countenances indicating intense feelings of astonishment and pain") by describing Christy as a sexual melancholic.

More seriously, the Abbey was subjected to boycotts at home and protests when it went on tour to America. Yet when the theatre revived *The Playboy* after Synge's death, it proved relatively uncontroversial, partly because it was played more comically, partly because it was recognised as the fine play it is. With time, it became respectable, maybe more respectable than Synge would have wished. What did the Abbey company give the Pope in 1968? Why, a leather-bound copy of that "dreadful play", *The Playboy*.

What to conclude about all the ado? It left some looking bigoted, some absurd, some stalwart in the cause of artistic liberty. Today, it leaves me, for one, feeling oddly envious. After all, it demonstrated how much drama could matter, at least to the Irish of 1907. Here was a mischievous, even subversive play, celebrating a Celtic savagery lurking just below the Christian surface. To argue, even to rebel against such an idea, seems healthy.

Who could imagine Kinnockites venting their spleen during David Hare's *Absence of War* or born-again bishops interrupting his *Racing Demon* with angry choruses of "What a friend we have in Jesus"? We English remain doggedly unprovoked by the most provocative pieces these days. And though nobody would wish to see the National torn apart by rampaging spectators, that may be our, and the theatre's, loss.

● **Tomorrow:** The night that revolutionised television

ARTS BRIEFING

On your bikes

AN abrupt change of gear lies ahead for Gas Hall — Birmingham's new art gallery. Currently it is exhibiting £100 million of Canalettos and English landscapes. But from February 12, the paintings will be replaced by motorbikes, as a new show called "BikeArt" brings together the finest cultural flowers of the custom-bike world.

"The subject matter is varied and challenging," says the gallery director, Michael Diamond, of his curious choice of exhibits. "And the finish, in the case of the most accomplished practitioners, can be astonishing." He cites the work of Stu Garland, whose decoration of motorbikes "incorporates gold leaf delicately washed over with translucent colour, and then lacquered to magical effect". Another biker has reproduced J.W. Waterhouse's *The Lady of Shalott* on his petrol tank.

● TOP prize of £18,000 in the London Weekend Television "Plays on Stage" competition has gone to the Bush Theatre in London. Under the scheme, LWT puts money into professional theatre productions on the basis of proposals they submit. The Bush's proposal was for *Raising Fires* by Jenny McLeod. Second prize (£16,000) went to the Talawa Theatre Company for *Resurrection in the Season of the Longest Drought* by Biyi Bandele-Thomas; and third prize (£14,000) to the Soho Theatre Company for *The Yiddish Trojan Women* by Carol Braverman. The plays will be staged in 1994. Dorothy Tutin, Donald Sinden and Timberlake Wertenbaker were among the judges.

Curtain up

MANCHESTER's sports fans may still be smarting from the rebuff over the Olympics. But the city's theatre-goers are anticipating a cultural jamboree following the launch on New Year's Eve of "Manchester City of Drama 1994".

It is the third of the Arts Council's Arts 2000 initiatives, following music year in Birmingham and dance year in the East Midlands. After the open-air bash in Albert Square from 10pm on Friday, with street entertainers and fireworks, the serious business will include visits by Théâtre de Complicité, the National Theatre (with *Angels in America*), Peter Brook's company, and Yukio Ninagawa's staging of *Peer Gynt*.

During the year a new theatre venue will become fully operational: an old cinema in Oxford Road will reopen as the 400-seat Dancehouse Theatre. The central box-office number for the Year of Drama is 061-242 2555.

NEW YORK THEATRE

Losers play the generation game

Holly Hill on the premiere of a Richard Nelson play tackling a perennial question

Life Sentences
Second Stage

"WHAT do they see in each other?" is a question often asked about lovers. In *Life Sentences*, given its world premiere in a John Caird production at Manhattan's Second Stage, Richard Nelson illustrates how perplexing the attempts to answer the question can be.

In two monologues and a brief scene, Nelson depicts a middle-aged academic and a flower-child living in his comfortable country house in upstate New York. Burke might have stepped out of *Some Americans Abroad*: he is a befuddled English professor teaching unpopular subjects like Chaucer, trying to believe that his ideals are more than fantasies: "Politics is coming back. I think it's because people are beginning to care again. Everything makes sense if you wait long enough."

Played with a wide-eyed, lumbering grace and self-deprecating laugh by Edward Hermann, Burke is like the perpetually rejected pup at an animal shelter, desperate to please. Abandoned by his wife, missing their daughter, he feels wonder at capturing the 25-year-old Mia and her young daughter. He is so enraptured that he overlooks her infidelity with a Polish dissident whom they house overnight, before the Pole embarrasses Burke before the whole college by delivering a lousy guest lecture.

Michelle Joyner makes Mia like a gawky colt as she putters around her cherished garden. "My mother used to say that in her life she had spent a lot more quality time with vegetables than with men." Describing her attraction to older academics, she tells of a teenage affair with her French teacher which made her a pregnant school dropout, and rationalises cuckolding Burke under his own roof with "I think there's a kind of love that only lasts a few hours."

In the last scene, Burke silently pleads that Mia won't leave him and she prays that he won't throw her out. She is a flake and he is a dolt, and Nelson shows that their deficiencies and needs are the ties that bind. Burke and Mia are not people one can particularly care about. But Nelson, in John Caird's spare production, makes them surprisingly tolerable company.

Edward Hermann as Burke and Michelle Joyner as Mia: tolerable company, but not people one cares about

DANCE

A step too far

The Nutcracker
Festival Hall

THOSE of us who are required each year, in the course of duty, to attend one performance after another of Tchaikovsky's Christmas ballet have to remind ourselves that at every one of those performances there are hundreds of people seeing *The Nutcracker* for the very first time. I wish that all producers would do the same.

Ben Stevenson's *Nutcracker* for English National Ballet, for instance, does better than some in terms of telling the story. But it could be even better if Stevenson had not fallen into the trap of trying to give the little heroine Clara and her horrible brother Fritz lots of showy steps to perform. At the Christmas party, we don't want dozens of cabrioles or fouettés; we want credible and interesting characters.

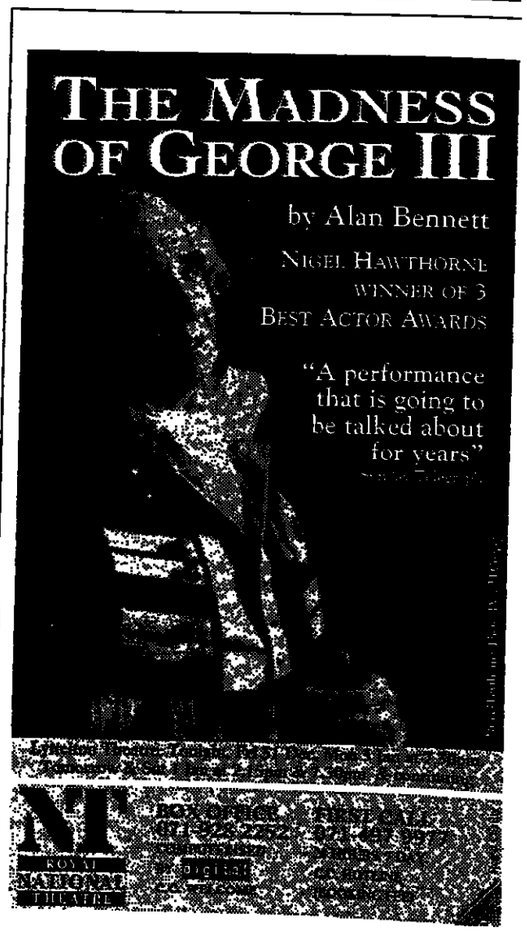
Darryl Norton dutifully tried to make Fritz lively in nature as well as choreography at Thursday's performance, but without much focus. Clara (Monica Perego) was such an artificial, brassy little woman that it was difficult to have much sympathy for the adventures of which she dreams.

English National Ballet's new director, Derek Deane, has said that his first priority was to work on technique and style. The general level in the small roles and ensembles shows that he is making progress. But there is a risk in his emphasis on assertive, high gloss, high-tech attack.

The principals all had some impressive tricks to show: Cecilia Kerche as the Sugar Plum Fairy, Fara Grieco as the Snow Queen (two of Deane's new recruits) with Bolshoi guest, Yuri Klevtzov partnering both of them. But all of them tended to do this step, that step, rather staccato, instead of showing a smooth flow of movement, interestingly phrased. And the ghosts of Christmases past kept whispering in my inner ear: "We used to have just as much technique, but we used it less pushily, and we had something more besides."

Call it charm, call it glamour, call it personality, these are not just outmoded qualities, but an important part of theatre, if you are going to do this kind of ballet. And they seem to have got lost along the way. Maybe now is the time for a shift of emphasis.

JOHN PERCIVAL



TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: Opening night for Patrick Stewart's solo tour de force of the Dickens tale. Highly acclaimed in two seasons on Broadway.
Old Vic. Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Dec 30, Jan 1, 4, 6, 8 at 2pm and Jan 2, 4pm. No perf Jan 3. Until Jan 8.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Tim Albery's austere but effective staging is a timely triumph of the first new Wagner production at the Coliseum in almost a decade. Linda McLeod's silvery tones are just right for Elsa and Edmund Barham sings the title role. Mark Elder conducts. Designs by Hildegard Bechtler; costumes by Nicky Gillibrand.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 3161). Tonight, 5.30pm 🅂

GILBERT AND SULLIVAN: Former stars of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company join forces with the **London Concert Orchestra** and The Magic of Gilbert and Sullivan Chorus for a fun and energetic evening of excerpts from the Savoy Operas. David Steadman conducts. Including Jill Washington and Geoffrey Shovelton.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm. 🅂

ELSEWHERE

ABERDEEN: Jack in the Beanstalk is this year's lively panto offering and stars Max Boyce, Andy Gray and Briony McRoberts as the fairy.
His Majesty's Theatre, Rosemount Viaduct (0224 641122). Today, Dec 30, 2.30 and 7pm. Jan 3, 4, 5: 2.30 and 7pm. Until Jan 8. 🅂

BRADFORD: Lucky Paul Nicholas gets to play Prince Charming in another magical rendition of **Cinderella.** With Billy Pearce, Sarah Buckley as the belle of the ball. Bobby Bennet and Dave Lee as the ugly sisters and Su Douglas as the Fairy Godmother.
Alhambra, Morley Street (0274 752000). Today and tomorrow, 2pm and 7.30pm; Dec 31, 2pm only. Jan 2, 1pm and 4.30pm. Until Feb 6 🅂

WOKING: This year's panto takes you to the exotic lands of **Aladdin,** starring Danny LaRue as Widow Twankey, plus Britt Ekland, Ray Meagher, Graham Bickley and Lewis MacLeod.
New Victoria Theatre, Peacocks Arts Centre (0483 761144). Today-Jan 1, 2.30 and 7.30pm; Jan 4, 7.30pm. Until Jan 30. 🅂

MOLD: The adapters of last year's *Christmas Carol* do another Dickens for this year's Christmas play: **Great Expectations,** with Darren Day as Pip.
Theatre Clwyd (0352 755114). Today-Jan 1, 2pm and 7pm. Same schedule for Jan 3-7. Until Jan 22. 🅂

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: The London Group (071-638 4141) . . . **British Museum:** Deities and Devotions: Hindu art; Kawanabe Kyosai (071-636 1555) . . . **Festival Hall.** Bruce Chatwin's Photographs (071-928 3002) . . . **National Portrait Gallery:** The Portrait Now; Thomas Eakins (071-306 0055) . . . **National Gallery:** Ken Kiff (071-839 3321) . . . **Royal Academy of Arts:** Drawings from the J. Paul Getty Museum (071-439 7438) . . . **Serpentine:** Richard Wentworth (071-402 6075) . . . **Tate:** Ben Nicholson; Turner's Vignettes (071-887 8008) . . . **Victoria & Albert:** Gates of Mystery: Russian icons, (071-938 8500).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◩ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **AN ABSOLUTE TURKEY:** Felicity Kendal plays a harassed wife and Griff Rhys Jones a frantic bachelor, in Peter Hall's production of Feydeau's *Le Dindon.* Inevitable hotel room panics in the second act.
Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5065). Previews tonight, 7.45pm. Opens Jan 4, 7pm.

☐ **THE BFG:** Roald Dahl's Big Friendly Giant makes his seasonally festive call on London.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115). Mon 7pm; Tue-Fri, 2pm and 7pm; Sat 11am, 2.30pm, 7pm

◩ **CAROUSEL:** Tuneful and cleverly set Rodgers and Hammerstein musical extravaganza.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm 🅂

☐ **FOREVER PLAID:** Genial and wittily performed homage to the four-part harmony groups of the 1950s.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5070). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat 8.30pm; mats Fri and Sat, 6pm.

◩ **THE GOOD-NATUR'D MAN:** This Christmas production means that both Goldsmith comedies are playing in the metropolis. This is the earlier and the plot creates a right tangle.
Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (081-940 3633). Today, Dec 31 and Jan 1: 4pm and 7.45pm; tomorrow, 2.30pm and 7.45pm

◩ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS:** Stephen Daldry's marvellously re-imagined version of Priestley's social thriller.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 5pm and 8.15pm; mat Wed, 2.30pm. 🅂

☐ **LOOKING THROUGH A GLASS ONION:** John Waters stars in his own musical tribute to John Lennon, and comes remarkably close to conveying his mysterious, if chaotic, charm.
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (071-839 4488). Today and tomorrow, 5pm and 8pm. Dec 31, 6pm and 8pm. Jan 1, 6pm only

☐ **MOONLIGHT:** Ian Holm and Anna Massey star in Pinter's play of a sour civil servant, unmourned by his family, raging against his approaching death.
Comedy, Panton St, SW1 (071-867 1045). Tonight-Sat, 8pm. Final performances

◩ **MR AND MRS NOBODY:** Patricia Routledge and Clive Swift keep up appearances in Keith Waterhouse's adaptation of *Diary of a Nobody* and his own *Diary of Mrs Pooter.*
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). Mon-Sat 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Till Jan 15 🅂

◩ **OLEANNA:** Power, politics and punishment at an American university. Great performances by David Suchet and Lia Williams in Harold Pinter's production of David Mamet's play.
Duke of York's, St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm. 🅂

☐ **ONE MAN:** Electrifying performances by Steven Berkoff in three solo pieces: Poe's *Telltale Heart; Actor;* and *Dog,* his hilarious, chilling view of life as seen by a lager lout's rottweiler.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

☐ **PIAF:** Elaine Paige in powerful voice as the Parisian sparrow. The play itself is rather less than marvellous.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed (Lorraine Brunning) and Sat 3pm. Dec 24, 3pm only

☐ **RELATIVE VALUES.** Susan Hampshire, Sara Crowe and Alison Fiske head a strong cast in Coward's snobbish but clever comedy. Tim Luscombe directs.
Savoy, Strand, WC2 (071-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Extra mat Dec 30, 3pm; no perf Dec 31. 🅂

☐ **SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER:** Donald Sinden, Miriam Margolyes and David Essex in Peter Hall's revival of the evergreen Goldsmith comedy.
Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. 🅂

☐ **THE THIRD POLICEMAN:** Adapted by Ridiculusmus from Flann O'Brien's weird novel and praised at Edinburgh. Lighting by bicycle lamps.
BAC 2, Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (071-223 2223). Opens tonight, 8.30pm. Then Tue-Sat, 8.30pm, Sun 6.30pm.

◩ **THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA:** The sparkle has faded from David Thacker's touring production, in London for one month.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Extra mat Dec 30, 3pm; no perf Dec 31. Until Jan 15.

LONG RUNNERS

■ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (071-867 1044) . . . ■ **Buddy:** Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . . . ■ **Cats.** New London (071-405 0072) . . ■ **Crazy for You:** Prince Edward (071-734 8951) . . ☐ **Don't Dress for Dinner:** Duchess (071-494 5070) . . . ◩ **Five Guys Named Moe:** Lyric (071-494 5045) . . . ■ **Grease:** Dominion (071-580 8845) . . . ☐ **Hot Stuff:** Cambridge (071-494 5040) . . ■ **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat:** Palladium (071-494 5037) . . . ■ **Les Misérables:** Palace (071-434 0909) . . . ■ **Miss Saigon:** Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-494 5400) . . . ☐ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's (071-836 1443) . . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (071-494 5400) . . . ■ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . . ■ **Sunset Boulevard:** Adelphi Theatre (071-344 0055) . . . ☐ **Travels With My Aunt:** Whitehall (071-867 1119) . . ◩ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (071-836 2238).

Ticket information supplied by Society of West End Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

DESPERATE REMEDIES (15): Artless, exhausting high camp from New Zealand: a period tale of love and deceit. Stewart Main and Peter Wells direct.
MGMs: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (071-586 3057) **Warner** (071-439 0791)

KING OF THE HILL (12). Astute and touching memoir of a Depression childhood, directed by Steven Soderbergh from A.E. Hotchner's book. With Jesse Bradford, Jeroen Krabbé.
Gate 🅂 (071-727 4043) **MGM Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6279)

LATE SPRING: Moving portrait of a father and his dutiful daughter, from the Japanese master Yasujiro Ozu; made in 1949. Part of an Ozu season.
Renoir (071-837 8402)

◆ **A PERFECT WORLD** (15): Kevin Costner's criminal on the run with a kidnapped child, and Clint Eastwood in pursuit. Thoughtful if overstretched drama; Eastwood also directs.
Barbican 🅂 (071-638 8891) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Trocadero** 🅂 (071-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** 🅂 (071-727 6705) **Warner** 🅂 (071-437 4343) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (071-792 3332).

CURRENT

◆ **ADDAMS FAMILY VALUES** (PG): A new baby causes chaos in America's most macabre household. Overblown sequel, with good stretches. With Raul Julia and Anjelica Huston; director, Barry Sonnenfeld.
Empire (071-497 9999) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🅂 (071-434 0031) **Screen/Green** (071-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (071-792 3332)

◆ **ALADDIN** (U): Disney's brash Arabian cartoon does not match expectations, though Robin Williams' Genie is fun.
Barbican 🅂 (071-638 8891) **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426-915683) **Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (071-792 3332)

AMERICAN HEART (15): Father and son hit the Seattle streets. Well-meaning social drama from director Martin Bell; with Jeff Bridges and Edward Furlong.
Odeon Haymarket (0426 915353)

◆ **DEMOLITION MAN** (15): Sylvester Stallone versus Wesley Snipes in a politically correct 21st century L.A. Marco Brambilla's overblown action romp with satirical touches.
MGMs: Oxford Street (071-636 0310) **Trocadero** 🅂 (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (071-792 3332) **Warner** 🅂 (071-437 4343)

THE HAWK (15). Is Helen Mirren's husband Lancashire's serial killer? Modest but powerful domestic thriller, from Peter Ransley's novel. David Hayman directs.
MGMs: Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Haymarket** (071-839 1527)

◆ **THE MAN WITHOUT A FACE** (12): Director Mel Gibson also stars as a scarred recluse tutoring a young outcast (Nick Stahl).
MGMs: Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6279) **Trocadero** 🅂 (071-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426-914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **Warner** 🅂 (071-437 4343) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (071-792 3332)

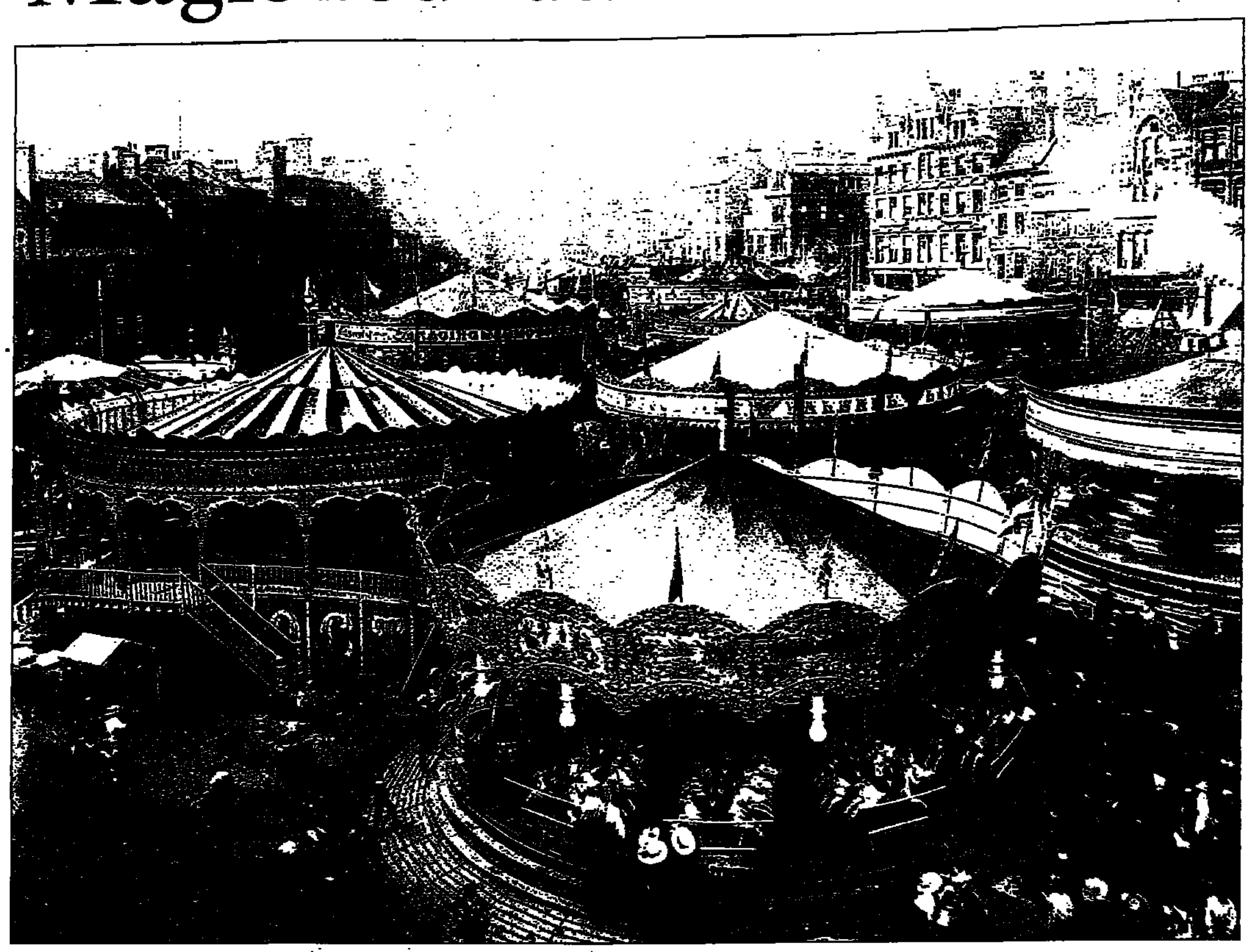
THE METEOR MAN (PG): Timid Washington teacher turns superhero and cleans up the community. Well-meaning fantasy from Robert Townsend.
Electric 🅂 (071-792 2020)

◆ **THE PIANO** (15): Jane Campion's magnificent tale of repression and desire in mid-19th century New Zealand.
Lumiere (071-836 0691) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Plaza** (071-497 9999) **Screen/Baker** (071-935 2772) **Screen/Hill** 🅂 (071-435 3366) **Warner** 🅂 (071-437 4343) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (071-792 3332)

◆ **ROBIN HOOD: MEN IN TIGHTS** (PG): Unfunny, outdated Sherwood Forest spoof from Mel Brooks, with Cary Elwes, Roger Rees, Richard Lewis.
MGMs: Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **West End** (0426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (071-792 3332)

◆ **SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE** (PG): Smart but indulgent romantic comedy stars Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks. Writer-director Nora Ephron.
MGMs: Baker Street, today only (071-935 9772) **Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **West End** (0426 915574)

Magic roundabouts live here



The hub of Nottingham Goose Fair in 1910: a spectacular collection of steam-driven roundabouts fills the market place. The photograph is from *Fairground Art,* by Geoff Weedon and Richard Ward, published in 1981 by Abbeville Press, New York, and White Mouse Editions, London

One man's dream will become reality in 1996 when a £6 million National Fairground Museum is established. **Simon Tait** reports

You can still recognise our funfairs in Dickens's descriptions of the Greenwich Fair of 1836. And he was writing before the heyday of the great steam gallopers and switchbacks:

> Imagine yourself in an extremely dense crowd which swings you to and fro, and in and out, and every way but the right one: add to this the screams of women, the shouts of boys, the clanging of gongs, the firing of pistols, the ringing of bells, the bellowings of speaking trumpets, the squeaking of penny dittoes, the noise of a dozen bands with three drums in each, that are all playing different tunes at the same time, the hallooing of showmen, and an occasional roar from the wild beast shows; and you are in the very centre and heart of the fair.

Mostly lost now is the fairground art, the naive paintings and plaster sculptures which became the stuff of millions of infant dreams, and nightmares. But the swirling atmosphere of flashing lights, scrambled noise and over-excited children has not changed. And now we are to get the world's first National Fairground Museum to celebrate the social history, industrial archaeology, art and (if they get the formula right) all the fun of the fair.

Gone, now, are "Madame Stevens, the Pig-Faced Lady", "The Bursting Spotted Negro Boy" and "The Eight Footed Horse" — replaced by more socially acceptable but perhaps less entrancing sideshows. And the old illustrations on the rides — of Queen Victoria, Kitchener and Harry Lloyd — have also gone, replaced by Presley, Monroe, Batman...

There was a romance about the people who ran fairgrounds. They were not gypsies but showmen, whose great trains of 20 or 30 steam engines would snake over the English countryside to the next ground, lifting urban hearts as they appeared on the horizon.

On September 17 the last of these great fairground convoys lumbered off on the open road: two mammoth Burrell steam engines pulling a combined load of 50 tons on a 66-mile journey from Fovant in Wiltshire to Hollycombe, Hampshire. Travelling at an average of four miles an hour it took them two days.

Their load was the Rodeo Switchback, built probably in the 1880s and now the oldest surviving large fairground ride. When its gondolas start their next undulations at Hollycombe in May, the Rodeo Switchback will constitute the first manifestation of the new museum. Later it will move to the museum's main Northampton site.

> 'There was a romance about the showmen who ran fairs'

The museum is the particular dream of an advertising man called Geoff Weedon, and it would be easy to dismiss it as another "national" monument to an individual's self-indulgence. But this dream has the manifest support to some eminently pragmatic institutions: the Science Museum, the National Art Collections Fund, the Victoria and Albert Museum and, most importantly, the National Heritage Memorial Fund. The latter has helped Weedon and his National Fairground Heritage Trust buy three sets of fairground rides so far.

"Fairgrounds are more than part of the history of ordinary people," says Georgina Naylor, director of the NHMF. "The gallopers are also very beautiful objects, and they are not represented in any of our national collections at the moment.

"I don't agree with stand-alone national museums being set up, because they are seldom successful. But there is so much to tell in a museum about fairgrounds and fairground life, as well as about the engineering and the beauty of the objects, that in this case it is entirely justified."

Showmen were the supreme improvising engineers, says John Robinson of the Science Museum. They were in great demand in the first world war because of their knack of adapting any bit of machinery and getting it to work with degress of safety that defy belief. The principles of the helicopter propellor were all to be found in the rise-and-fall of the carousel gallopers long before the helicopter was invented.

Weedon discovered a love of the fairground during summer seasons on pier-ends where his father, the guitarist Bert Weedon, was appearing. At art college he made fairground art the subject of his thesis. He has raised £3 million of the £6.5 million he needs for the museum, and originally intended to open it in 1994. But when the site developers fell away, so did his hopes.

They were revived earlier this year with new developers, Wilson Bowden. Together with Northamptonshire Council and the Commission for New Towns, they are embracing the National Fairground Museum as a valuable tourist resource. Now it is due to open at Easter 1996, on a £45 million retail estate on 40 acres near the A45 and next to the River Nene near Northampton. There will also be a London "outpost" at Three Mills, on the Thames at Stratford-by-Bowe.

The Northampton site will cost £4 million and include an operating steam fair beneath a 50,000 square-foot canopy; galleries devoted to the history of fairs, fairground art, steam engineering and the showman's life; restaurants; and a site for visiting fairs and circuses. There will also be the world's only surviving bioscope, the horse-drawn ancestor of the cinema.

Mills on the Stratford site were recorded in the Domesday Book, and the one which now houses most the collections dates from the 1770s. It has already been restored with European Community, City Challenge and English Heritage funding: for another £2 million it will be transformed into the London Fairground Museum, a visitor centre and workshops providing training in the fairground arts and trades as well as spectacle.

"The fairs were the commercial heart of the country until the 18th and 19th centuries when communications reduced them to places of entertainment," said Geoff Weedon. "It was at this time that entertainments for the wealthy and for the poor were divided, and there was scant regard for the popular art of fairgrounds until recently. Now, at last, government agencies like the NHMF are appreciating the popular heritage."

ENTERTAINMENTS

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

PRINCE OF WALES BO/CC 071 839 5972 cc (24hr no bkg fee) 071 836 3464/344 4444 Grps 071 413 3321
THE NEW PRODUCTION OF ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S
ASPECTS OF LOVE
22 PERFS ONLY UNTIL 15 JAN
Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 071 836 3161 (24hr)
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Ton't 5.30 LOHENGRIN
Tomor 7.30 TWO WIDOWS

Royal Festival Hall
071 928 8800
English National Ballet
THE NUTCRACKER
"Pure and simple magic" E S'td
For 4 weeks only
Today (2.30) Greico Duncan Goyens
T'nt (7.30) Desutter Chalmer Jaffe

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 071 240 1066/1911. Tickets avail on the day Stand-by info 836 6903.
THE ROYAL BALLET Today 2.30 Tales of Beatrix Potter.
Tomor 7.30 Ballet Imperial/Tales of Beatrix Potter

THEATRES

ADELPHI
"A genuine triumph" D Mail
"Andrew Lloyd Webber's most persuasive Score" New Yorker
SUNSET BOULEVARD
"Oh what a glorious Sunset" D.Exp
"It out - Oklahomas 'Oklahoma!'" Wall St Journal
24HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS CALL 071 344 0055 (bkg fee)
GROUP BKG 071 413 3302 (bkg fee)
NO BKG FEE FOR PERSONAL CALLERS AT THE ADELPHI BOX OFFICE
Recorded Information 071 379 8884
Mon-Sat 8.00 Mats Thu & Sat 3.00
NOW BOOKING TO APRIL 94
QUEUE DAILY FOR RETURNS

OLEANNA
Extra Matinee today at 3pm (meet the cast afterwards)
Full details on
071-836 5122

ALBERY THEATRE 071 867 1115/1111cc or 24hrs/bkg fee 071 344 4444
"GIZZARDGULPING FAMILY FUN" Times
THE BFG
of Roald Dahl's whizzcracking story
SAVE £18 - ask box office for details Most days 2 & 7pm. Sat 11am, 2.30 & 7pm. (No perf 26 Dec)

ALDWYCH 071 836 6404/497 9977
Group Sales 071 930 6123
"UNMISSABLE" Time Out
"OUTSTANDING" D. Tel
The Royal National Theatre's multi award-winning production of J.B. Priestley's
AN INSPECTOR CALLS
"As concentrated a piece of theatrical perfection as you will find anywhere" Today
"I URGE YOU TO SEE IT" D.Mail
2.30pm & 7.45pm
Now booking until March '94

APOLLO 071 494 5070/071 344 4444/497 9977 (All 24hrs/No bkg fee) Groups 494 5454/413 3321
"THE BEST PARTY IN TOWN" D.Mi
"FOREVER PLAID"
Mons are Xmas Party Nights! Mulled wine & meet the cast! Call 494-5070 for details
8.00pm
Fri 6pm all seats half price!

APOLLO VICTORIA SS cc 630 6262 Groups 828 6188/413 3321 cc 24hr 071 344 4444/497 9977
"Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
"A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail
White knuckle rune 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £10.00 - £30.00

BLOOMSBURY THEATRE BO/CC 071 387 9629 Until January 8
Daily at 3pm Some morning perfs at 11.30am Please check with Box Office.
SOOTY AT CHRISTMAS

CALL 071-481 1920
To place your entertainment advert in THE TIMES

CAMBRIDGE WC2 BO/CC 071 494 5080/071 344 4444 Grps 071 413 3321
"A FANTASTIC 70'S MUSICAL" Abba, Glitter, Bowie & Queen meet the devil in this year's biggest cult hit musical" Capital Gold
* HOT STUFF *
"Truly roaring across the West End stage in a frenzy" Today
JAN SALE ALL SEATS £10
From Jan 3rd except Sat 8.30.
Mon-Thu 8 Fri & Sat 5.30 & 8.30
ALL SEATS £10.

COMEDY BO/CC 071 867 1045/071 867 1111/344 4444
IAN HOLM ANNA MASSEY
Evening Standard Actor of the Year in HAROLD PINTER'S
MOONLIGHT
"It moved me to tears. Go, and you will see a GREAT PLAY" D Mail "This play has everything going for it" F
LAST WEEK!
Mon-Sat 8 Mats Wed 3 Sat 5

CRITERION 839 4488 cc 344 4444
LOOKING THROUGH A GLASS ONION
JOHN LENNON
IN WORD & MUSIC
"The best sounds in town" What's On
Mon-Fri 8.00 Sat 6.00 & 9.00
LAST WEEK

DOMINION Ticketlines 081 900 1957 071 580 8845/9562. Grps 071 636 0875 413 3321 / 386 4747
GREASE
Starring CRAIG McLACHLAN and DEBBIE GIBSON
"A monster hit" Daily Mirror
Eves 7.30pm Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
Standing room available daily

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 071 494 5001/344 4444/240 7200/379 9901 Grps 831 8625/494 5454
MISS SAIGON
"THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME"
NOW IN ITS 5TH FABULOUS YEAR!
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs apply B.O.
FOR TELEPHONE POSTAL BOOKINGS/PERSONAL CALLERS
071 494 5060 BKG FEE

DUCHESS cc 071 494 5070 cc 344 4444 (no bkg fee)/836 2428 (bkg fee) Groups 071-413 3321
Eves 8pm, Wed mat 3pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30
NOW IN ITS 3RD YEAR
"A SAUCY COMEDY" E. Std
DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER
"Gloriously Outrageous" T Out

DUKE OF YORK'S THEATRE 071 836 5122 cc 836 9837 24hrs/7 days 836 3464, 344 4444
DAVID SUCHET LIA WILLIAMS
OLEANNA
by David Mamet
Directed by Harold Pinter
"Riveting new play" D. Tel
Extra Mat Today at 3pm
Eves 7.30, Thur Mat 3, Sat Mat 4
No latecomers admitted
Cast Changes 10 January

To place your ENTERTAINMENT advert in
THE TIMES
TRADE 071-481 1920
FAX 071-481 9313
TELEX 925088
PRIVATE 071-481 4000

FORTUNE BO & CC 836 2238 CC 497 9977 (No fee) 344 4444 (24hrs/No fee) Grps 930 6123
JOHN NETTLETON
BRIAN DEACON
Susan Hill's
THE WOMAN IN BLACK
Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt
"The most chilling and thrilling play for years" D Mail
8.00pm
Now booking until March '94

GARRICK THEATRE BO/CC 071 494 5085 (bkg fee)/CC (24 hrs) 344 4444 Grps 071 494 5454
STEVEN BERKOFF
ONE MAN
"Grippingly funny...Hilarious" T.Out
"Riveting...Hypnotising... Memorable" S.Tel
"A unique theatrical experience...A Tour De Force" Jack Tinker D.Mail
MUST END JAN 1

GLOBE BO/CC 494 5067/497 9977
THE PETER HALL COMPANY
FELICITY KENDAL GRIFF RHYS JONES
AN ABSOLUTE TURKEY
Translated from Le Dindon by Nicki Frei & Peter Hall
RED PRICE PREVIEWS NOW
OPENS JAN 4 AT 7.00

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL BO/CC 071 930 8800 24hrs no bkg fee
RSC production of
THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA
"AN UNDOUBTED HIT" Obs.
by William Shakespeare
with music by Gershwin & Cole Porter
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00.
Extra Mat Dec 30 at 3.00
Ltd Season Must End 15 Jan

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/497 9977 (bkg fee) Group Sales 071 930 6123
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
Directed by HAROLD PRINCE
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
NOW BOOKING TO 17 DEC 1994
APPLY DAILY FOR RETURNS

LON. PALLADIUM 24hr BO/CC 071 494 5020 (£1 per Tkt Serv Chge) 071 344 4444/497 9977 Mon-Thu/bkg fee Fri-Sat) Groups 494 5456 (£1 per Tkt Serv Chge)
Andrew Lloyd Webber's "exuberant new production" Std of "Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's Palladium Blockbuster" Gdn
JOSEPH & THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT
Dir by STEVEN PIMLOTT
Starring JASON DONOVAN
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30
QUEUE DAILY FOR RETURNS
This production must end 15 Jan

To place your ENTERTAINMENT advert in
THE TIMES
TRADE 071-481 1920
FAX 071-481 9313
TELEX 925088
PRIVATE 071-481 4000

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH 081 741 2311 or (24hrs/no bkg fee) 071 836 3464
* * * XMAS AT THE LYRIC * * *
Until 22 Jan, Mon-Sat 7.45 (24 Dec 6.00 No perfs 25,27 Dec, 3 Jan)
Northern Broadsides' 'HILARIOUS' Tel
MERRY WIVES by Shakespeare
Also playing until 15 Jan, NODDY, Morning & afternoon perfs (incl Sun No perfs 26 Dec, 2, 3 Jan)
'Magical, spellbinding' Times
STUDIO 081 741 8701 Until 8 Jan
PLAYHOUSE CREATURES Eve 8.00 Mats 1, 8 Jan 4.00

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 071 928 2252 Grps 071 620 0741; 24hr cc bkg fee 071 497 9977
OLIVIER
Ton't 7.15, Tomor 2.00 & 7.15 THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Kenneth Grahame, adapted by Alan Bennett.
LYTTELTON
Ton't 7.30, Tomor 2.15 & 7.30 THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III Alan Bennett
COTTESLOE
Today 1.00 MILLENNIUM APPROACHES Tony Kushner. Ton't, Tomor 7.00 PERESTROIKA Tony Kushner

NEW LONDON Drury Lane BO 071 405 0072 CC 071 404 4079 24hr 344 4444. Grps 930 6123
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER /T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL
CATS
Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00
LATECOMERS NOT ADMIT TED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT.
Bars open at 6.45
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL.
DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

OLD VIC 071 928 7616 / CC 071 497 9977
Groups 071 930 6123
28 Dec - 8 Jan
PATRICK STEWART in
A CHRISTMAS CAROL
'Remarkable...a tour de force'

PALACE THEATRE 071-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 071-344 4444/497 9977/071 793 1000
Group Sales 071 930 6123
Groups 071 494 1871
THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL
LES MISERABLES
Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30
Latecomers not admitted until the interval
LIMITED NO OF SEATS AVAIL.
DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 867 1044 867 1111/344 4444 (fee) 497 9977
BEST MUSICAL
ALL 4 MAJOR AWARDS
WILLY RUSSELL'S
BLOOD BROTHERS
STEPHANIE LAWRENCE with CARL WAYNE
"ASTONISHING" S Express
...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D Mail
Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4
ALL SEATS £15.

PICCADILLY BO/CC 867 1118/071 867 1111/344 4444
THE PETER HALL COMPANY
ELAINE PAIGE in
PIAF
A musical play by PAM GEMS
Directed by PETER HALL
Eves 8.00 Mats Wed, Sat 3.00
Matinee's Lorraine Brunning will play the role of Piaf (Wed Mat all seats £10)

PLAYHOUSE BO/CC 071 839 4401
TIM PIGOTT SMITH in
JANE EYRE
Adapted by Fay Weldon
"Epic...an enthralling piece of theatre" D Exp. "Certainly deserves to be put on the Christmas list" D Mail.
Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thu & Sat at 3.00
ALL SEATS £10.

PRINCE EDWARD 071 734 8951 cc (24hr no bkg fee) 836 3464 / 071 344 4444 Groups 930 6123
BEST MUSICAL
Laurence Olivier Awards 93
THE NEW GERSHWIN MUSICAL COMEDY
CRAZY FOR YOU
"PUTS THE BRIGHT LIGHTS BACK IN THE WEST END IN DAZZLING STYLE" M.on.Sun.
Eves 7.45 Mats Thu & Sat 3.00
APPLY DAILY FOR RETURNS & CANCELLATIONS

PRINCE OF WALES 071 839 5972 24hr 7 day cc 836 3464 (no bkg fee)
From 9 Feb for a limited season
Charity Gala 10 Feb at 7.00
PAUL DANIELS
THE MAGIC MAN
Debbie McGee & Martin Daniels
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30

QUEENS BO/CC 071 494 5041 CC 071 344 4444/Grps 071 413 3321
THE PETER HALL COMPANY
DONALD SINDEN DAVID ESSEX
MIRIAM MARGOLYES in
SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER
Directed by PETER HALL
"GLORIOUS" D. Mail
'A generous, golden evening' S.Tms
'Everything you could ask for' FT
Eves 7.45 Mats: Thu 3.00 Sat 4.00
ALL SEATS £10

To place your ENTERTAINMENT advert in
THE TIMES
TRADE 071-481 1920
FAX 071-481 9313
TELEX 925088
PRIVATE 071-481 4000

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LONDON (071 638 8891 cc Mon - Sun 9am-8pm)
BARBICAN THEATRE
MACBETH Ton't 7.15, Thu 2.00 & 7.15
THE PIT. WILDEST DREAMS Ton't 7.15, Thu 2.00 & 7.15
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON (0789 295623 cc Mon-Sat 9am-8pm)
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE
KING LEAR
Ton't 7.30, Tomor 1.00
SWAN THEATRE: MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL Ton't 7.30, Tomor 1.30
THE OTHER PLACE: GHOSTS Tomor, Sat 7.30
Meal/Ticket/Hotel package 0789 414999

SADLERS WELLS inc cc 071 278 8916/cc 071 497 9977 (bkg fee)
Until 8 Jan
Black Light Theatre of Prague
PETER PAN
"Like magic come true" Times

To place your ENTERTAINMENT advert in
THE TIMES
TRADE 071-481 1920
FAX 071-481 9313
TELEX 925088
PRIVATE 071-481 4000

SAVOY THEATRE BO/CC 071 836 8888 cc 497 9977 (24hrs no bkg fee)
SUSAN HAMPSHIRE
ALISON FISKE SARA CROWE
ANTHONY BATE
in NOEL COWARD'S
"WICKEDLY ENJOYABLE" D. Tel
RELATIVE VALUES
Directed by TIM LUSCOMBE
"JOYOUS" F.T
"SPARKLING... A COMEDY WITH REAL BITE" Time Out
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
EXTRA MATS 3PM 29 & 30 DEC
All Seats £10.

SHAFTESBURY BO & CC 071 379 5399 CC 071 344 4444 24hr/bkg fee Grps 413 3321
DUE TO HUGE PUBLIC DEMAND RUN NOW EXTENDED TO AUGUST 27 1994
"RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S MASTERPIECE" S. Times
CAROUSEL
"A ONCE IN A DECADE EVENT" D. Tel
Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30
PLEASE NOTE latecomers will not be admitted for 40 minutes

ST MARTIN'S 071-836 1443 Special CC No 344 4444. Evgs 8.0 Tues 2.45, Sat 5.0 and 8.0
42nd Year of Agatha Christie's
THE MOUSETRAP

STRAND BO/CC 071 930 8800 24hr cc 071 344 4444 (no bkg fee) Groups 071 413 3321
DAWN FRENCH JENNIFER SAUNDERS
ME & MAMIE O'ROURKE
By Mary Agnes Donoghue
"Sublime comic genius" D Mail
Directed by Robert Allan Ackerman
FOR A LIMITED SEASON
Mon-Thur 8 Fri, Sat 6 & 8.45

VAUDEVILLE BO/CC 071 836 9987
Best Comedy Of The Year
Evening Standard Award
Extended to January 8.
KEN CAMPBELL IN JAMAIS VU
Mon-Sat 7.30, Sat Mat 2.30 Tkts £5-£15
No perfs Jan 3.

WHITEHALL BO/CC 867 1119 /1111 071 344 4444/497 9977
BEST ENTERTAINMENT
1993 OLIVER AWARDS
John Wells
William Gaunt Ian Lindsay
TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT
"GILES HAVERGALS brilliant adaptation of GRAHAM GREENE'S funniest novel" Obs.
Mon-Fri 8 Wed 3 Sat 5 & 8.15
ALL SEATS £10.

To place your ENTERTAINMENT advert in
THE TIMES
TRADE 071-481 1920
FAX 071-481 9313
TELEX 925088
PRIVATE 071-481 4000

WYNDHAMS BO/CC 071 867 1116 / 071 344 4444/497 9977
"A BLAZINGLY INTELLIGENT PERFORMANCE" Gdn.
DIANA RIGG
"The crowning role of her career" D Mail
MEDEA
"Dazzling, stunning, compelling, unmissable. Jonathan Kents' flawless production" S Express
Mon-Fri 8.00 Sat 5.30 & 8.30

YOUNG VIC 071 6363 cc/fee 497 9977. Until 12 Feb
PETE TOWNSHEND'S ROCK OPERA
THE IRON MAN
'Breathtaking stage magic' E.Std

TO PLACE YOUR
ENTERTAINMENTS
ADVERTISEMENT IN
THE TIMES
TRADE ADVERTISERS
TEL: 071-481 1920
ADVERTISING FAX NO.
071-481 9313
TELEX
925088
PRIVATE ADVERTISERS
TEL: 071-481 4000
YOU MAY USE YOUR ACCESS, AMEX, DINERS OR VISA CARD

[مكبرة من الاصل]

Hammond makes light of latest success

By Peter Bryan

Hammond le... junior worl... ...mpion and now ... senior level ... time out of his ... studies to put in ... training routine in ... field near his home ... Peter in Buckingh... Hammond, the ... was ideal ... and climbs, tricky ... stretches ...

... this winter he ... four compe... Steve Douc... ...ional champ... on Monday ... 52sec abso... ...der at Macclesfield ... Douc... ...trophy ser... ...ible the wo... ...ith's wor... ...in Belgium ... held on a ... the fir...

... to belie... ...secret behi... ...good run ... train... ...own chance... ...this tre... ...loss f... ...ers, wh... ...propos... ...lightwe... ...ally fac... ...a hea...

...ugh fac... ...ge w... ...p in ... ...much ... ...deep ... ...ance

...ica

GALLERIES: Powerful work by an American video artist in London; a master of popular painting in Newcastle

Birth, death and videotape

The first major British exhibition of work by the video artist Bill Viola is a gripping and visceral experience, writes Richard Cork

Slowly Turning Narrative (1992): a captivating installation dramatising the tension between a monochrome man's face and colour footage of the outside world

While too many video artists numb the viewer with tedious and unbearably protracted images, Bill Viola makes sure that his installations invade our senses on the most visceral level imaginable. I still vividly recall his tall, shadowy vault at last year's Documenta, the mega-survey of contemporary art where 190 exhibitors jetted in to Kassel from all over the world. Among so much meretricious work, Viola's slow-motion images on an immense vertical screen held me enthralled. With alarming yet oddly lyrical power, he showed a figure plummeting towards water and then floating underneath. Suspended between death and life, this elegiac image was potent enough to convince me that Viola could make video as mesmeric as the most potent painting or sculpture.

> 'Video can be as mesmeric as the most potent painting'

My belief is reinforced by his first substantial British exhibition, held at the Whitechapel Art Gallery and augmented by an earlier work at Anthony d'Offay's. The entire barn-like space on the Whitechapel's ground floor has been darkened. Visitors are confronted at once by a colossal three-panel piece projected on a screen almost as wide as the gallery itself. In the centre, the largest image is again focused on an underwater figure.

But this time, it is flanked by panels which give the work even greater resonance than its predecessor at Documenta. Like an altarpiece in a penumbral church, where paintings of the nativity and crucifixion are poignantly juxtaposed, Viola's *Nantes Triptych* encompasses birth and extinction with equal directness.

In the left panel, Viola's wife and collaborator Kira Perov is seen bracing herself for the imminent birth of their second child. On the right, Viola's elderly mother approaches her death. The contrast between the two events, separated in reality by a nine-month gap, is stark. Kira crouches, breathing vigorously whenever her contractions resume and supported, from behind, by the naked arms of her husband. From time to time, medical figures move in from the foreground to assist her, and during the climactic moment of birth she is surrounded by helpers.

Viola's mother, on the other hand, is for the most part alone. Stretched out motionless in bed, she has nobody to clasp her. Breathing only in feeble spasms, with the aid of a long tube attached to her throat, she is unable either to move or talk. Her mouth hangs open, as if gasping for air, and she occasionally blinks. But she seems unaware of her surroundings, and does not appear to respond even when a man sits beside her.

The silence enveloping her room becomes even sadder when interrupted by Kira's accelerating cries of pain. As the contractions intensify, she begins to sound uncannily like the baby who will soon emerge. Noise also erupts from the central panel, as the anonymous figure crashes through the water and floats, in slow motion, beneath the surface. When Kira lapses into quietness, and waits patiently for the next bout of pain, our eyes travel across to this shrouded presence drifting through the submarine murkiness. Sometimes, the clothes billow outwards in the water and take on a twisting life of their own. The screen is filled with undulations of cloth, stirring memories of the draperies which play such an expressive role in so many Renaissance paintings.

Detached from the figure they once enclosed, these looping and spiralling sheets encourage us to think of a soul rather than a body. They seem to be hovering in limbo, waiting for a resolution of their indeterminate state. Like the old mother on one side and the young wife on the other, the sheets and their wearer have no means of knowing when they might be released from travail. But towards the end of the *Nantes Triptych*'s duration, a mysterious light appears in the central panel. Its radiance coincides with the beginning of birth and with our realisation that the dying woman has very little time left. So the advent of brightness appears to symbolise both the baby's emergence from the womb and the departure of the mother's spirit from her body.

The drama of the birth itself, and the safe delivery of a son, inevitably wrench our attention away from the nearby death. Our feelings of relief and satisfaction as the newborn infant is pulled free, and then handed straightaway to his mother, are compounded with guilt when we realise that the woman's final moments have failed to sustain as much of our interest. Dying is unavoidably lonely, even when a hand comes forward to stroke the woman's forehead.

But as the baby nestles into his mother's breast, and stares blearily at his new surroundings, we find ourselves giving an equal amount of attention to both sides of the work once more. Infant and old woman are now seen in close-up. Her face, in death, is resting on the left of the pillow. Her gaping mouth has fallen awkwardly in the same direction. The baby's lips are closed, and the alertness of his gaze contrasts with the sightless shadows beneath his grandmother's loose eyelids. All the same, he looks bemused and weary. His puffy face testifies to the arduous journey he has undergone.

In this respect, the newborn and the dead are united. They have both reached their destinations after prolonged turmoil, and the shrouded figure between them is finally released from limbo as he rises towards the water's surface before disappearing in a sudden rush of sound and light.

The *Nantes Triptych* amounts to an unforgettable experience. The frankness with which Viola approaches his mother's death arouses a certain amount of unease, just as Monet's decision to paint his wife Camille on her deathbed in 1879 still has the ability to disturb. Many years later, Monet felt mortified when he remembered that picture, and wondered if his willingness to paint it had somehow compromised his feelings as a human being.

On balance, though, Viola has no need to regret filming his mother's last moments. However private her death and the baby's birth undoubtedly were, they now have the capacity to help us meditate on the beginning and end of all our lives. During his travels in the South Pacific and Japan nearly 20 years ago, Viola immersed himself in Zen Buddhist philosophy. The experience may well inform the contemplative character of the *Nantes Triptych*, and in particular the unfathomability conveyed by the unknown figure suspended so eloquently at the heart of the work.

Birth and death are brought even closer together in *Heaven and Earth*, where two black-and-white monitors are lodged at eye level in a slender column extending to the ceiling. Viola's dying mother reappears on the upper screen, and his newborn son below. Although they face one another, in apparent confrontation, the two faces soon merge.

But this affirmative sense of unity is not sustained elsewhere. Upstairs, in a chilling and darkened room, sleeping heads on video screens are isolated at the bottom of water-filled barrels. We stare down voyeuristically at each face, registering each twitch and sudden, involuntary movement of a hand. While sharing the condition of slumber, each one remains trapped and solitary.

Confinement is challenged further on, where a captivating and superbly orchestrated installation called *Slowly Turning Narrative* dramatises the tension between a monochrome man's face and colour footage of events from the outside world. They are projected on either side of a rotating screen in the middle of the room. The frowning man seems to be struggling to escape from introspection, and engage with the communal activities on the other screen. But he cannot cast off his self-absorption, just as we are continually reminded of our own watchful presence through images reflected in the mirrored surface of the screen.

The alienation becomes stronger still in the final work, where an electronic sign sends illuminated news-flashes travelling round a large white structure. Anyone entering the shadowy chamber within discovers that the walls are dominated by images of sleeping heads. Impervious to the events proclaimed so clamorously on the outside, they confirm the division between private experience and social reality. It is an ominous conclusion, but Viola's mastery at least ensures that the gulf separating video art from its potential audience has been triumphantly bridged.

● Bill Viola: Unseen Images *at the Whitechapel (071-377 0107) until February 13, and at Anthony d'Offay (071-499 4100) until January 28*

RADIO REVIEW

Off-the-wall and on the airwaves

Not every month sees an entire radio station open and close. But during the four weeks leading up to Christmas Eve, listeners in parts of central and northern London could tune to 87.7 FM and find Festival Radio, the recipient of a Restricted Service Licence, awarded by the Radio Authority to enable transmission over a short period and a geographically confined area.

If, like myself, you lived *just* within reach, tuning in became a matter of large movement of the aerial and infinitesimal adjustment of the dial, and a great deal of hissing and whistling on the part of the radio. This must have been what it was like for wireless owners in the days of glowing valves.

Festival's publicity, on the other hand, emphasises the station's modernity. The formula — music, chat and various off-the-wall offerings — has already proved successful as operated by the independent production company Level Broadcast. Festival Radio has transmitted annually at the Brighton Festival since 1990, and from next October will operate in the North as well, having won a licence to establish a radio station in Manchester. The company is therefore a leading contender to run one of the two FM stations which the Radio Authority will award for transmission in London in 1994.

Festival's schedule for the capital was music-orientated, with an eclectic playlist of contemporary indie rock, jazz and world music. The presenters included names familiar from London's alternative scene, from DJ Jay Strongman to comics Jenny Eclair and Attila the Stockbroker. The four-week trial is long enough to allow extended air time, and to expose weaknesses.

The weekday mid-morning pairing of Eclair and *The Word*'s Mark Lamarr, for instance, meant that the programme rarely left a groove of chirpy blather. Some of the daytime talk programmes provided by LBC, the London broadcaster now doomed by the Radio Authority, are much tougher and more substantial.

Where Festival's potential seems greatest, however, is in spoken-word formats covering different areas than any other single London station. *The Naked City* was an example of a shrewdly-commissioned strand: a 15-minute lunchtime sequence of pithy, city-centred news and mini-features, produced in part by journalism students from City University.

There was also theatre, of a kind. Noiseless Blackboard Eraser, whose central creative geniuses are Lance Dann and Rohan Kriwaczek, produced "sound-plays": not quite drama, not quite music, but tapestries of sampled sound, instrumentation and periodic speech. In *If on a Winter's Night a Listener*, for instance, a smooth-voiced character described your journey through a bizarre, sci-fi-like soundscape. If this was a game with levels of reality, it was written wittily enough to avoid pretension.

Newer buzz words like "aural art" describe some of the programming which Festival has developed. The term betokens a dissatisfaction with more conventional forms of radio broadcasting, but a desire to respect the essential properties of the medium. Festival's strength is not entirely its "alternative" profile, but the sense of possibility in a radical open-ended schedule. Level Broadcast is now bidding for licences to set up permanent stations in London and Birmingham. If the company succeeds, one hopes that legitimisation will not curb the creative instinct.

ANDY LAVENDER

World where all's well that's Elwell

John Russell Taylor on an artist whose reputation has for too long mixed popular acclaim and critical neglect

Rarely does the honour of a major retrospective come to an artist like Fred Elwell. Despite, or perhaps because of, the fact that his *The First Born* is the best known, most popular picture in the Ferens Art Gallery, Hull, a major seller on postcards and greetings cards ever since it was painted in 1913, its creator is almost completely unknown, his works scattered far and wide in private collections or the storerooms of public galleries.

So what has possessed anyone to put on a show of more than 100 canvases? Certainly not a centenary: Elwell's dates, 1870-1958, are all wrong for that. But all the same, the time seems absolutely right for taking another look at such as him. Post-Modernism (not to mention camp nostalgia) has encouraged a higher regard for artists who, in the wake of Impressionism, Post-Impressionism and even Cubism, went on blithely behaving as if such things had never existed, or at least, did so in their public life. In the Elwell show one is sometimes reminded of his near contemporary Gerald Kelly, PRA, whose dashing and atmospheric pochades seem always doomed to be conventionalised into academic stuffiness when worked up into "the real thing".

Except that Elwell appears to have been perfectly happy with his chosen public style. Admittedly the screens upon which he dashed down his ideas for pictures, with their swift eye for highlights and their inspired casualness, show clearly that he had, after all, looked at the Impressionists and at Whistler.

But he must have shared the mid-19th-century view that an "impression" stayed in the studio, and a finished painting was something very different. He could best, perhaps, be compared with a French painter like Gervex, who knew the Impressionists perfectly well, but chose to do something completely different himself.

There is a certain irony in the comparison: both their most famous works, *The First Born* and *Rolla* respectively, were bedroom scenes, and both caused controversy. But whereas the question with the French picture was what, exactly, had the featured couple been doing the night before, the question with the English was whether the young father speeding to gaze on his first child should not have taken his hat off first. For our own generation the question might well be whether the father should be so ethereal-looking, to the extent that he has often been mistaken for a helpful land girl or a rural district nurse.

This is not a mistake Elwell often makes. Most of his men are, if not exactly the Rambo type, at any rate unmistakably drinkers of port and smokers of cigars. The women, when they are not shaped by nature to appear on the front page of the *Tatler* in tweed and pearls, are likely to be waitresses or kitchen maids.

But then, the clearly observed social distinctions often make his paintings more vivid and absorbing as documents of a vanished society than perhaps they ever are purely as art. Pictures like *The Squire*, with the elderly gent unselfconsciously reading household prayers to serried ranks of uniformed maids and footmen, are revealing exactly because there is no trace of irony in them.

And Elwell was evidently just as at home with the lower orders as with their masters; the whole series of paintings concerning the kitchen of the Beverley Arms, mostly painted in the Twenties, demonstrates a friendly, unsentimental eye for local hierarchies, as well as an unexpectedly sensitive response to the way the changing light falls through the large window which dominates the room. Possibly the Royal Academy could be persuaded to take an interest in one of its own if he too could be seen as a series painter.

The big reason that this show appears in the North rather than the Sackler Galleries, however, is local connections. Elwell was born and spent most of his life in Beverley, and therefore carries much more weight in the Northeast than in fickle London. Also, the Elwell expert, Wendy Loncaster, lives locally and her accompanying book, *Fred Elwell RA: A Life In Art* (£9.90), is full of the sort of illuminating details that only familiarity with the background can bring to the work of a regional painter.

Even if Elwell's portraits are a bit dull and his landscapes, though agreeable, hardly more than conventional, his peopled interiors take on so much life from his intense feeling for the place and the inhabitants that he ends up a regional artist of truly national interest.

● **Laing Art Gallery**, Higham Place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (091-232 6989) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Nov 17-Jan 23. Admission £1, concessions 50p

Fred Elwell's *The First Born*, 1913 (detail), the most popular picture in Hull's Ferens Art Gallery, and a bestselling postcard and greetings card ever since it was painted

GREAT DRAMA ON OFFER

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

GLOBE THEATRE
Absolute Turkey
Wednesday, January 5

FELICITY Kendal and Griff Rhys Jones head the cast in Peter Hall's production of Feydeau's comedy of marital high jinks An Absolute Turkey. The Theatre Club has arranged a special evening for members to meet the cast over a glass of wine after the show.

An Absolute Turkey is a new translation of Feydeau's Le Dindon directed by Peter Hall with designs by renowned cartoonist Gerald Scarfe. George Feydeau, the master of French farce, demonstrates once again that sexual desire is the most dangerous and ridiculous of all human passions.

Underneath the 19th century world of tight corsets, stiff collars and correct behaviour, Feydeau's men are obsessed with desire and chase each other's wives like predators in a jungle. And the women manipulate, punish and occasionally reward their completely demented lovers. It promises to be an hilarious evening.

Tickets are £23 which includes the party with the cast after the show: telephone (071-494 5067.

● To join the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name and address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, PO Box 2164, Colchester CO1 1GN or telephone 0206 41662 during office hours using your credit card. Apply before December 31 and you will receive 50 free AIR MILES awards. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack.

Drawings from The J. Paul Getty Museum
From Leonardo to Van Gogh

'SUMPTUOUS EXHIBITION' Independent on Sunday

Royal Academy of Arts
Piccadilly, London W1

until 23 January 1994

(Closed 24, 25 & 26 December, Open New Year's Day)

10 - 6 daily, including Sundays

Supported by THE TIMES

Capitalisation, week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 13. Dealings end December 31. §Contango day January 4. Settlement day January 10. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
6,502.60	Abbey Ntl	496	+17	11.8	3.0	19.1
1,882.70	Allied Irish	286	...	...	3.6	14.6
2,325.80	Anz New Z	216	-2	...	4.0	∞
11,109.90	Bankamerica	3125 †	...	...	4.4	20.9
1,776.00	Bk of Ireland	284	+4	...	4.0	...
29.60	Bk Leuml UK	375	+25	17.0	5.7	...
2,658.70	Bank Scotland	229	-6	4.6	2.5	31.1
10,287.30	Barclays	633	+18	...	2.5	...
7.93	Carlisle	26	...	...	...	...
143.40	Cater Allen	595 †	+1	28.0	5.9	...
188.20	Cattles	170	+5	...	3.3	22.6
4,234.50	Chase Manh	2306¼	+46¾	...	...	...
9,312.20	Citicorp	2456¼	+82¼	...	...	...
223.20	Close Bros	495	+5	...	2.8	18.0
4,530.00	Commerzbk	£152¼	+225	...	2.6	...
16,615.80	Deutsche Bk	£348¼	+1087½	...	1.8	...
98.10	First Nat Fin	60	...	...	1.0	...
40,565.90	Fuji Bank Y	1401	...	...	0.4	...
175.90	Gerrard Nat	450	-3	21.5	6.0	12.0
7,471.10	HSBC	910	+45	20.0	2.7	21.8
15,670.30	HSBC HK	916	+45	20.0	2.7	22.0
701.00	Hambros	390	+18	14.3	4.5	18.4
21.90	Joseph (L)	418 †	...	16.7	5.0	...
20.90	King Shaxson	132 †	+2	9.0	8.5	...
789.20	Kleinwort Ben	597	+44	16.7	3.5	20.7
8,448.70	Lloyds	658	+13	19.1	3.6	18.8
57.40	Lon Scot Bk	95	...	2.9	3.8	18.8
6,886.20	Nat Aust Bk	524 †	-7	...	4.0	∞
10,090.60	Nat West	607½	+17½	17.8	3.7	36.9
607.00	Provident	454	+2	12.4	3.4	19.7
23.10	Rea Bros	59	-1	0.5	1.2	62.7
3,652.40	Ryl Bk Scot	460 †	+11	...	3.0	24.6
1,373.60	Schroders	1360	+22	...	1.1	27.1
2,931.50	Stand Chart	1231	+41	20.5	2.1	...
3,886.10	TSB	256	+6	6.4	3.1	...
31.10	Union Disc	164	-1	...	...	...
2,048.50	Warburg SG	944	+46	...	2.6	13.8
4,875.00	Wells Fargo	8800	+437½	...	2.3	...
3,541.50	Westpac	202 †	-6	...	2.5	∞
26.70	Wintrust	315	...	9.3	3.7	28.2

BREWERIES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
5,895.30	Allied-Lyons	665 †	+22	...	4.0	18.4
4,782.70	Bass	551 †	-15	...	4.5	14.9
343.20	Boddington	285	...	7.5	3.3	16.6
315.30	Bulmer (HP)	410	-3	...	3.2	18.3
37.20	Burtonwd Brw	179	...	4.7	3.3	15.0
22.80	Eldridge P 'A'	143	-1	...	3.2	∞
1,963.50	Fosters Brewing	61	-½	...	4.3	∞
85.90	Fullr Sm 'A'	423	+3	7.5	2.2	18.0
9,842.00	Grand Met	475	+24	...	3.5	18.2
951.70	Greenalls Grp	456	+11	...	3.4	15.4
233.50	Greene King	552	-2	...	2.8	15.3
9,859.30	Guinness	491	+10	...	3.1	18.3
54.80	Hardy Hansn	239	...	8.5	4.6	∞
3.43	Heavitree▲	135	...	3.0	2.8	32.2
449.40	Highland Dist	355	+1	...	2.3	17.7
93.80	Holt J	3125	...	42.0	1.7	20.4
4.38	Hoskins Brew	75	-1	...	...	54.0
383.80	Invrgordn Dist	301	...	...	2.9	17.2
154.90	Macallan-Glen	133	-1	4.3	4.1	29.9
54.40	Macdn Martn 'A'	400	+5	...	2.8	19.1
150.40	Mansfield	235 †	+16	...	2.1	16.8
249.10	Mrston Thmp	275	-6	...	2.5	15.3
138.30	Matthew Clark	565	+2	...	4.0	18.8
28.50	Mrydwn W	235 †	+5	7.0	3.7	21.0
108.80	Morland	513	...	...	2.4	17.6
5.28	Paramount▲	10½	+2	...	2.1	∞
30.60	Regent Inns	209	+2	...	2.7	21.2
6,940.20	SA Breweries	1283 †	+32	...	2.1	21.8
2,867.30	Scot & New	541	...	...	4.0	16.4
188.00	Taunton Cider	172 †	+2	6.2	4.5	13.1
380.60	Vaux Group	275	-6	9.5	4.4	...
105.90	Wetherspoon JD	338	+13	...	2.0	...
3,042.00	Whitbread 'A'	585	+4	...	3.8	4.0
343.30	Wolvrhmptn D	521 †	-8	12.6	3.0	∞
14.10	Young 'A'	485	...	14.7	3.8	20.1

BUILDING, ROADS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
60.00	Abbey	155	...	...	1.6	25.5
13.00	Alordigmona▲	18	-1	...	0.7	...
40.00	Allen▲	150 †	+4	...	4.2	34.0
242.40	Amec	120	-1	3.7	3.1	22.2
2.97	Anglia Sec	9	+1½	...	...	...
99.90	Ashtead▲	333	+4	...	1.7	35.2
387.30	Atwoods	137	+15	...	4.6	...
1,771.80	BPB Ind	356	-20	...	2.7	42.6
38.10	Baggeridge Brk	96	+2	3.1	4.2	∞
2.72	Bailey (Ben) Con	26	...	0.6	2.9	...
16.00	Barcotti	86	+1	3.0	4.5	...
260.10	Bardon	47	+5	2.0	5.3	23.2
392.60	Barratt Devs	217	-7	4.0	2.3	∞
236.20	Bellway	484	+4	12.0	3.1	∞
20.20	Bellwinch	46	-3	...	...	...
405.00	Berkeley Gp	528	-18	...	1.5	28.4
17.70	Bett Bros	118	+9	...	2.1	15.2
16.60	Blockleys	65	+9½	1.0	1.9	71.8
2,456.60	Blue Circle	355	+12	...	4.0	...
72.00	Boot (Henry)	277	+4	6.0	2.7	15.5
26.70	Breedon PLC	94	+1	4.6	6.1	23.1
22.90	Br Dredging	130	...	5.2	5.0	28.9
18.60	Brit Fittings	78	-2	1.7	2.8	...
461.30	Bryant	167	+6	...	3.6	33.7
43.30	CALA	127½	+1	...	2.3	...
1,219.80	CRH	348	-4	...	2.5	19.1
1.86	Cakebread Rby	31	...	...	...	...
147.60	Costain	29½	+2	...	...	...
119.00	Countryside	156	+4	...	3.4	∞
75.70	Crest Nicholson	99	+2	0.0	...	...
18.30	Cussins	103	...	...	1.3	...
1.91	Dunton▲	4	-1½	...	...	...
10.00	Edmond Hldgs	19	...	0.3	2.0	...
54.20	Epwin	275	+2	7.0	3.2	23.3
26.90	Erith	57	+2	0.3	0.8	...
41.60	Eve Group▲	435	-3	...	3.0	16.4
6.85	Explaura▲	4½	-½	...	...	...
9.27	Freeman G pa	134	...	...	4.7	21.3
36.40	Galliford	41	+2	...	3.0	...
1.51	Gibbs & Dandy	87	+3	...	2.0	...
92.20	Gleeson (MJ)	913	+3	...	1.7	15.9
316.20	Hewden Stuart	166	+5	...	2.5	29.6
3.97	Hewetson	48	...	...	3.4	33.6
376.80	Heywd Wm	403 †	-3	13.0	4.0	...
53.70	Higgs & Hill	122	+4	2.5	2.6	...
11.50	How Gp	28	...	...	5.0	...
5.12	Howard Hldgs	20	...	0.5	3.1	...
215.30	Ibstock Johnsen	86	+8	1.0	1.5	...
11.50	Jarvis	17	+2½	...	...	...
139.70	Laing (J)	305	+3	9.0	3.7	12.2
49.20	-do- 6.4% Cv Pf	122½	+2	...	6.5	...
10.40	Lilley Clydeside▲	115	+5	4.5	4.9	43.3
8.73	Lovell (YJ)	10½	-5	...	...	4.8
142.90	Manders	381	+31	9.3	3.1	23.3
542.20	Marley	191	+6	4.2	2.7	56.0
158.10	Marshalls	130	...	...	3.9	...
48.40	Maunders (J)	196	+7	...	3.3	18.9
135.60	McAlpine (A)	240	+10	6.5	3.4	41.6
38.40	McCarthy & S	85	+9	0.5	1.1	...
662.70	Meyer Int	531	-6	...	2.4	53.2
145.30	Mowlem (J)	134	+5	4.0	3.7	...
23.70	NSM	150	-3	...	...	...
9.01	Needler▲	48	...	...	3.7	22.4
301.60	Newman Tnks	167	+6	...	5.0	22.3
704.40	Persimmon	310	+7	8.6	3.5	31.6
2.11	Phoenix Timber	9	-1	...	...	...
17.90	Pochins	1725	+175	29.0	2.1	24.3
153.50	Prowting	198	+16	3.4	2.1	...
5.05	Quiligotti▲	1½	...	...	...	...
1,908.90	RMC Gp	969	+12	...	2.6	36.4
178.50	Raine Ind	95	+4	...	3.9	22.5
2.82	Ramus▲	25	+2	...	...	...
3,090.80	Redland	599	+10	25.0	5.2	34.9
12.00	Roskel	80	...	4.3	6.7	11.8
990.30	Rugby Group	338	+1	6.4	2.4	25.9
9.09	Severfield-Reeve▲	58	-2	...	0.5	...
33.50	Sharpe & Fisher	162	...	...	2.1	28.2
174.70	Sheffield Insl	266	+12	...	2.5	65.8
24.50	Sheriff Hldgs▲	233	+26	...	2.0	∞
3.22	Shorco▲	94	...	...	6.9	21.4
23.00	Smart (J)	228	...	...	4.7	17.2
6.72	Starmin	2	+¼	...	...	...
1,634.60	Tarmac	178	+10	5.5	3.9	...
56.10	Tay Homes	192 †	+27	...	3.8	23.7
576.70	Taylor Woodrw	138	...	1.0	0.8	...
209.60	Tilbury Dougls	620	+5	33.0	6.7	30.2
3.66	Turex Hire▲	36	+1	...	1.4	...
320.60	Travis Perkins	314	+1	8.0	3.2	55.3
12.10	Try Group	28	...	1.0	4.5	7.9
2.30	Tudor▲	21	...	...	1.5	...
41.40	Vibroplant	90	+2½	2.5	3.5	32.4
28.40	Ward Hldgs	54	+5	...	...	...
0.83	Watermouse	33	...	...	...	...
93.60	Watts Blake	450	+10	...	3.3	19.4
6.24	Wescol▲	20	...	...	...	...
129.70	Westbury	195	+11	5.0	3.2	30.4
3.77	West Scaffold▲	7	...	...	...	...
16.70	Wiggins	3½	...	...	...	...
460.80	Wilson Bowdn	495	+16	...	2.2	34.8
407.40	Wilson (C)	215	+22	3.9	2.3	37.2
663.50	Wimpey G	184	+15	...	3.6	...
2.64	YRM	20	+1	0.5	3.1	...

BUSINESS SERVICES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
812.30	ADT	585	+1	...	...	...
10.80	Adam & Harvey	253	+3	13.0	6.4	4.6
5.59	Air London▲	63	+1	...	6.9	11.3
1.10	African Lakes	44	...	2.0	5.7	...
153.40	Auto Sec	131	+2	...	5.8	23.5
1,247.20	BET Ord	133½	-4	...	2.1	5.4
27.70	BNB Res	115	+1	4.9	5.3	...
60.50	BPP	230	...	8.3	4.5	12.7
39.00	Barbour Index	235	...	8.0	4.3	16.0
19.10	Boustead	22	...	0.7	4.0	...
52.70	Brit Data Mgt	217	+5	4.7	2.7	15.8
3.66	Broadcastle▲	23	+1	...	1.4	18.3
7.11	Brooks Service	59	+3	...	1.1	...
52.10	CRT Gp	98	+1	...	3.7	17.2
105.20	Capita Group	222	+19	...	1.3	24.7
49.80	Casket Plc	53 †	+10½	...	2.1	20.4
31.30	Chiltern Capital	23	...	...	...	...
15.20	Christie	65	...	...	...	...
1,011.80	Chubb Sec	362 †	+7	...	1.8	22.5
41.70	Comace	114	+4	...	1.6	29.8
15.40	Corp Services	41	+1	...	...	...
19.80	Coutts Cnsng	83	+2	...	...	...
23.10	Dart	151 †	+15	3.3	2.7	20.5
243.00	Davis Service	238	+18	...	4.2	17.9
8.95	EW Facts▲	119	-5	4.4	4.7	13.6
27.30	Gardiner	25½	-½	0.4	2.1	17.7
1,156.30	Hays	286½	+12½	...	2.3	25.0
169.50	Hogg Robinsn	245	+8	...	3.4	17.9
17.20	Holmes Protectn	39	...	...	...	2.4
11,804.30	Hutch Whamp	327	-1	...	1.5	27.4
551.90	ISS B Dkr	2125	...	...	1.0	14.7
2,944.90	Inchcape	562	-12	...	3.1	18.3
170.30	Johnson Clean	864	...	25.7	3.7	18.8
64.60	Lep	7	...	...	...	...
32.30	Mite Gp	296	+11	3.5	1.5	22.3
843.00	Manpower	1133	+92	...	...	...
38.90	Michael Page	65	+6	1.8	3.5	27.6
5.44	Penna▲	115	...	...	8.7	4.3
1.63	Prime People▲	3½	...	...	...	...
40.60	Proudfoot Alex	65	+2	...	28.8	3.6
39.60	RCO	370	...	14.1	4.8	13.7
8.23	REA	97	...	2.0	2.6	...
53.20	Reed Executive	104	-7	...	...	...
23.80	Reliance Sec▲	106	+1	...	5.4	22.7
2,408.30	Rentokil	247	+20	2.5	1.3	30.8
18.70	Rolfe & Nolan	295 †	+5	...	3.2	20.3
950.90	Salvesen (C)	331 †	+5	...	3.0	22.0
3.71	Scott Pickford▲	43	+8	...	2.3	13.7
19.40	Select Appt▲	9	...	...	...	...
147.30	Serco Gp	1270	-3	13.3	1.3	35.1
6.71	Sherwd Cmptr▲	110	+6	...	8.0	3.2
58.00	Sketchley	100	...	...	3.8	22.9
77.00	Warner Howrd	325	...	0.6	2.6	17.0
12.00	Welpac	27	-1	...	...	...
35.70	Wills Gp	25½	+½	...	2.0	17.8

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
612.10	Allied Colloids	233	+2	...	2.3	21.4
588.10	Amersham	1030	+31	...	1.7	29.6
34.50	Anglo Utd	3½	+¼	...	...	...
6,584.90	BASF DM	£115¼	+312½	...	3.2	...
408.00	BTP	304 †	+3	...	3.9	24.4
9,351.70	Bayer DM50	£142¼	+275	...	3.8	...
50.20	Blagden	103	-5	6.5	7.5	11.6
88.40	Brent Chemg	121	-3	...	7.1	12.0
126.00	Br Bio-Tech	553	-5	...	...	...
3.29	Caird Gp	5½	...	...	22.2	16.0
43.30	Canning (W)	153	+8	7.2	6.0	17.5
1,889.40	Courtaulds	470	+1	...	3.9	11.8
420.40	Croda	327½	-3½	...	3.0	18.6
11.00	Doeflex	109	+4	4.6	5.3	8.4
187.70	Ellis & Everard	222	+7	...	2.9	21.7
11.00	Euro Colour	30½	+1	0.8	3.0	17.5
104.00	Halstead (J)	349	+1	...	2.3	17.3
303.80	Hickson	175	-3	...	5.7	16.2
7,132.50	Hoechst	£120¼	+337½	...	3.0	...
136.80	Holliday Chem	160	+4	...	2.9	14.7
5,617.20	ICI	778	+10½	...	4.4	...
1,329.70	Laporte	722	+6	19.9	3.4	19.0
121.40	Leigh	190 †	-1	...	5.2	16.7
12.40	MTM	48	...	...	...	...
3,876.80	Norsk Hydro	1887½	+18½	...	1.5	26.8
112.50	Paterson Zoch	461	+1	...	3.4	15.6
95.70	-do- 'A'	416	+1	...	3.8	14.0
104.50	Plysu	220	+22	...	4.0	18.6
40.80	Porvair	265	+12	3.8	1.8	28.1
33.20	Sutcliffe Speak	99	+1	...	...	...
109.40	Wardle Storeys	443	+8	...	4.9	7.5
42.40	Wigmshme R	573	+8	17.0	3.7	19.6
179.60	Yorks Chem	393	-2	...	2.5	21.0
256.50	Yule Catto	298	-1	...	2.9	16.1
7,749.00	Zeneca	820	+25	...	4.2	48.4

DRAPERY, STORES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
37.30	Alexon	65	-1	...	5.8	...
81.40	Amber Day	70 †	+3	1.3	2.4	...
1,132.70	Argos Plc	381	+5	...	2.3	32.5
14.40	Ashley Group	10½	-½	...	3.3	...
192.60	Ashley (Laura)	82	+7	...	1.1	...
245.00	Asprey	307 †	...	5.2	2.1	19.8
56.60	Austin Reed	185	+26	...	1.7	...
68.20	Beattie (J) 'A'	147	-1	...	5.2	14.8
46.10	Bentalls	110	...	1.9	2.2	...
143.50	Betterware	140	+7	...	1.9	16.8
12.10	Blacks Leis	38 †	...	2.2	7.4	...
419.30	Body Shop	224	+4	...	1.0	28.0
78.50	Brown & Jackson	17½	+½	...	0.8	6.3
306.60	Brown (N)	420	-2	...	1.2	24.7
919.70	Burton	65½	+3½	...	3.9	...
32.40	Cantors	195	...	...	2.6	27.2
42.70	Church	305	+62	12.5	4.0	35.1
25.50	Clinton Cards	150	-5	4.3	3.6	18.1
1,744.60	Coats Viyella	260	-7	...	3.6	35.9
16.80	Colourvision▲	83	...	5.6	8.4	14.9
30.30	Ctry Casuals	15½	+1	...	3.5	14.7
218.00	Courts Furnish	97	...	5.6	0.8	11.1
2.48	Crown Eyes▲	1¼ †	+5	...	6.0	10.6
2,008.90	Dairy Farm Intl	121	+3	...	1.9	17.8
123.50	Dewhirst (IJ)	98	+1½	0.8	1.0	31.5
1,090.20	Dixons Grp	276	+7	...	2.8	...
4.87	ERA Gp	8½	...	...	...	69.7
6.36	Elys (Wimbldn)	530	...	16.0	3.8	18.2
36.10	Essex Furn	228	+64	...	1.9	36.5
151.50	Etam	232	+2	7.0	3.8	21.3
417.10	Fine Art Dev	324 †	-17	13.0	3.1	17.0
2.68	Fired Earth T Des	47	...	...	...	...
16.20	Forminster	690	+52	14.5	2.7	12.4
19.80	French Conn	124	+5	...	...	...
26.70	Gent SR	72	+6	...	3.6	22.4
18.90	Goldsmiths Gp	86	+10	0.3	0.4	...
6,383.10	GUS	634½	+29½	...	2.3	19.3
3.14	Hampden Grp	21	...	...	6.0	10.4
57.60	Hartstone	55	-2	...	...	...
39.70	Helene Plc	31½	+2	2.0	7.9	15.0
4.49	Herbert Gp	96	+6	...	...	...
5.68	Honest Buckle▲	70	...	...	4.0	...
17.00	Jacques Vert	179	...	...	2.1	13.7
4,934.30	Kingfisher	742	+25	...	2.3	25.5
26.00	Lee Wise Gp	75	+2	4.0	6.7	15.5
86.80	Liberty	535	...	7.2	1.7	63.0
425.20	Lloyds Chem	380	+18	...	2.5	12.7
960.50	MFI	165	+6	...	2.8	34.7
12,192.40	Marks Spencer	440	+9	...	2.4	22.5
316.40	Menzies (John)	569	+5	...	2.4	16.1
39.70	Moss Bros	238	+2	3.5	2.4	28.0
837.9	Next	227	+15	3.5	1.9	22.1
9.1	Oliver (G)	39	+1	...	...	...
163.70	Oriflame Intl	306	-9	...	4.1	14.8
3.00	Pentos	25	+½	0.8	4.0	5.2
8.40	QS Hldgs	225	...	5.1	2.9	16.0
57.30	Rhino Grp▲	64	-1	...	...	...
36.40	Rosebys	185	+10	...	3.3	22.2
164.10	Sherwood Gp	147	...	...	2.2	13.2
1,963.00	Sears	130	+2½	...	3.4	...
64.90	Signet Group	23½	+3	...	...	...
1,412.10	Smith WH 'A'	518	+1	...	3.4	17.0
2.18	Specialeyes▲	14	-2	...	...	...
979.40	Storehouse	236	+1½	...	2.7	23.1
93.90	T & S Stores	147	...	6.0	5.1	10.9
80.50	Tie Rack	156	...	1.0	0.8	25.5
124.00	Time Products	234	...	7.7	4.1	20.2
7.76	Usher (Frank)▲	111	...	...	6.8	9.6
2,712.10	Vendome	388	-7	...	2.0	18.1
19.80	Vivat	36	...	1.0	3.5	11.1
3.29	Wensum▲	44	...	...	5.3	...
426.80	Wickes	114	+5	...	0.2	51.8
4.39	Wid of Leather▲	54	...	...	...	...
67.40	Wyevale	176	...	...	3.0	23.3
3.47	Xtra-vision▲	2½	-½	...	...	...

ELECTRICALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
271.10	ACT Group	147	...	...	4.3	14.8
38.10	Acal▲	263 †	...	...	3.1	18.9
48.50	Acorn Comp▲	73	-8	...	...	37.0
51.60	Admiral	478	+3	5.7	1.5	20.2
75.50	Alba	163	...	...	3.7	18.4
10.50	Alphameric	39	-½	...	...	...
238.30	Amstrad	41	+½	0.5	1.5	∞
15.20	App Holo▲	73	...	...	...	...
21.10	Arlen	35	...	...	...	...
250.90	Astec	81	+7½	...	0.4	...
23.60	Beales Hunter	240	+5	...	4.9	14.8
2.65	Bennett & Fountn	2½	...	...	...	...
1,383.80	BICC	393	-22	19.2	6.1	...
141.30	Blick	470	...	10.2	2.8	∞
312.40	Borland▲	1100	-50	...	...	...
667.00	Bowthorpe	359 †	-9	...	2.4	23.8
30,166.00	BT	486 †	+10	...	4.1	18.3
5,941.40	BT P/P	227 †	-8½	...	4.1	23.0
3.83	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	14½	-¼	0.1	0.8	...
23.70	Buzzfield	60	...	5.7	10.4	10.9
11,390.00	Cable Wireless	522 †	+20	...	1.8	27.3
57.80	Chloride	24½	+1½	...	...	...
47.30	CML Micro▲	270	...	...	2.2	19.6
15.00	Compr People	108	...	...	...	...
351.50	Cray Elect	159½	+11½	...	1.2	16.4
49.30	Crichley	427 †	+6	...	1.4	24.6
713.40	Delta	482	-2	...	3.6	20.1
19.90	Denmans El▲	446	+3	...	1.7	19.0
102.40	Domino	400	-18	7.4	2.3	13.7
104.10	Dowding Mills	71	+5½	...	4.4	30.4
78.10	Dracke	1220	-10	10.0	1.0	26.0
1,092.00	Electrocompnts	520	+15	...	2.0	21.2
51.60	El Data Prc	593	+58	5.5	1.2	∞
35.20	Electron House	133	-2	2.6	2.4	29.2
22.30	Emess	21	-½	0.1	0.6	...
321.40	Eurotherm	719	+47	9.5	1.7	∞
863.00	FKI	194½	-½	...	2.1	28.5
747.70	Farnell Elect	558	+4	...	1.5	29.5
6.18	Feedback▲	73 †	+2	...	3.4	9.9
9.36	Ferranti	1 #	...	...	...	...
44.60	First Tech	300	+5	...	0.8	24.9
18.80	Forward Gp▲	233	...	...	2.1	16.5
5.10	Forward Tech	15	+1	...	...	...
9,066.50	GEC	331½	+11½	10.4	3.9	16.6
104.80	Graseby	165	+7	...	8.3	34.7
28.90	Graystone	11	...	...	...	...
1.88	Hillclare▲	39 †	-1	...	1.6	...
6.46	INSTEM▲	135	...	...	2.9	9.7
59.80	Ind Control	150	...	...	3.7	15.1
70.60	Jones Stroud	388	...	...	2.8	15.6
38.80	Kalamazoo	102 †	+3	2.7	3.3	23.7
3.57	Kembrey	12½	...	0.1	1.6	...
128.10	Kenwood App	349	+21½	...	2.8	19.4
26.60	Kewill Sys▲	223	-8	...	...	...
15.30	Kode	165	...	6.0	4.5	19.6
3.06	Laser-Scan▲	19	...	...	...	...
26.00	LDMS▲	145	-5	...	0.6	20.4
15.60	Lec Refrig	258	...	9.0	4.4	...
249.90	Life Sciences	147	+8	3.7	3.2	15.9
166.10	Logica	270	+2	...	1.9	31.1
4.34	LPA Ind▲	52	...	...	8.5	14.7
112.50	MR Data Mngmt	203	...	...	3.2	19.1
151.10	Macro 4	665	+27	...	3.3	20.2
116.10	Metvier-Swa	238	+1	...	1.9	21.1
131.10	Micro Focus	923	+18	...	...	8.5
58.30	Microgen	148	...	7.2	6.1	10.1
21.20	Microvitec▲	32½	...	...	...	...
196.70	Misys	507	-10	...	1.7	18.5
283.70	MMI	359	-1	...	...	...
15.30	MMT Comp▲	143	...	...	3.5	19.5
6.88	Molynx	36½	+½	1.3	...	...
44.00	MTL Instr▲	250	...	...	1.9	18.8
21.30	Multitone Elect	141	+1	3.5	3.4	25.6
23.50	Murray Enter	267	+30	...	1.9	∞
11,195.10	NYNEX	2712½	-50	...	...	...
32.90	Neotronics	128	...	2.6	2.5	16.5
2.51	Newmark (L)	54	...	...	...	...
21.20	Norbain▲	279	-5	...	0.7	21.5
8.36	Northamber	47	-3	0.6	1.6	...
10.70	Oceonics	7½	...	...	...	...
152.10	Oxford Inst	313	+7	4.6	1.8	21.4
17.10	P-E Internl	78	+5	...	...	...
34.40	P & P	62	+4	1.5	3.0	32.9
90.60	Peek	77½	-½	3.4	5.5	20.2
13.50	Pegasus▲	204	+2	...	3.9	52.4
12.60	Philips Fn 4%	9750	...	...	5.9	...
4,434.20	-do- Lmp nv	1387½	+12½	...	...	...
125.30	Phonelink▲	353	+22	...	...	...
27.20	Pifco	293	+13	...	1.8	24.6
19.50	-do- 'A' Voting	283	+13	...	1.8	23.7
3.35	Plasmec▲	72	-1	...	5.2	6.1
25.50	Prestac	100	...	...	3.2	21.2
39.80	Psion▲	181	+13	...	1.7	48.1
542.20	Racal Elect	194 †	+9	4.2	2.7	11.5
7.01	Radamec	38	...	...	4.9	8.1
7.37	Radius▲	27	...	2.2	10.4	9.3
5.11	Real Time▲	73	+3	...	5.1	15.0
6.50	Riva▲	25	...	...	...	31.7
106.10	Sage Gp	515	+10	9.9	2.4	∞
27.60	Sanderson Elec	310	-3	9.9	4.1	13.0
22.50	Scantronic	72 †	...	3.1	5.5	19.7
62.00	Scholes Grp	162	+5	...	3.9	21.0
282.10	Sema Gp	310	+1	2.9	1.2	25.1
13.70	Silvermines	42	+3	...	3.0	...
6.30	Soundtracks▲	63	+7	...	4.5	21.3
2,091.60	TDK	2275	-137½	...	1.4	25.7
1.03	TDS Circuits▲	11½	...	...	...	...
128.50	Telemetrix	142	...	0.8	0.7	23.4
4,288.30	THORN EMI	1009	+15	...	4.0	23.2
17.20	Thorpe FW	133	+1	...	2.5	15.5
2.48	Total Systems▲	24	-1	1.5	7.8	4.3
90.90	Tunstall	388	...	7.0	1.6	∞
174.80	Unitech	256	...	...	3.0	60.6
25.90	Verity	13	+2	...	...	...
26.80	Vistec▲	22 †	-2½	...	2.1	13.0
5,960.60	Vodafone	592½	+32½	...	1.6	25.8
117.70	Volex	444 †	-21	18.1	5.1	18.2
3.01	Western Selectn	20 †	...	0.2	1.6	...
37.60	Wholesale Ftgs	265	...	11.7	5.5	28.2

ELECTRICITY

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1,451.20	East Midlands	666	-2	...	3.9	11.7
1,895.40	Eastern Elect	702	+8	...	3.6	13.2
1,031.70	Hydro-Elect	477	+7	...	3.1	10.6
1,465.60	London Elec	692	+7	...	4.0	12.5
913.60	Manweb	769	+18	...	3.6	9.5
1,523.10	Midlands Elec	726	+10	...	3.7	11.3
6,453.90	National Powr	505	+36	...	2.7	12.5
907.20	Northern Elec	737	+9	...	3.9	9.5
658.40	Nthn Ireland	280	+7	...	3.2	13.3
1,310.80	Norweb	759	+24	20.8	3.5	10.8
4,445.30	PowerGen	587	+41	...	2.5	14.9
3,060.40	Scottish Power	486	+24	...	3.0	17.9
953.70	Seeboard	748	+3	...	3.5	9.6
767.10	Sth Wales	755	+8	...	3.9	11.5
864.20	Sth Western	702	+11	...	3.8	10.2
1,953.90	Southern Elec	721	+13	...	3.6	9.3
1,429.00	Yorkshire Elec	689	+3	...	3.9	12.9

FINANCE, LAND

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
32.40	Aitken Hume	57½	-½	1.0	2.3	11.3
24.60	BWD▲	132	-1	...	3.2	20.6
29.90	Baillie Plc	99	...	...	1.3	...
518.50	Caledonia	624	...	...	3.1	25.2
47.50	Camellia	1900	...	...	3.0	7.1
73.10	Candover	328	+23	10.4	4.0	23.2
132.10	Flextech▲	385	+74	...	0.2	...
257.80	Govett	367	+15	...	4.5	10.8
53.70	Ivory Sime	185	+11	...	4.8	15.8
4.31	LIT	7½	...	...	...	...
236.00	Lon Forfaiting▲	236	+1	8.7	4.6	17.2
16.00	Manakin	70	...	...	...	...
8.79	Nat Home Loan	8½	-¼	...	...	...
18.90	Newmarket	53	+1	...	...	...
62.10	Rathbone Brs	315	-8	6.5	2.6	19.1
55.20	Rutland Tst	21½	...	...	4.7	12.8
33.70	S & U	315	+2	10.2	4.0	11.7
163.50	Singer & Fried	85	+5	...	4.4	...
378.30	Sotheby's	1115	+90	...	3.0	...
361.30	STP Capital	133	+11	3.0	2.8	54.4

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
10,045.90	Amer Express	2087½	+78½	...	...	...
218.90	Henderson Ad	1021	+3	...	5.1	23.6
466.80	Invesco	189	+7	...	2.0	...
2,786.90	Jardine Strat	295	+22	...	2.7	12.3
855.50	MAI	263	+11	...	3.3	16.7
1,354.00	MAM	730	+13	16.0	2.8	18.0
780.80	M & G	1013	+5	25.0	3.1	∞
226.10	Smith New Ct	425	+9	...	2.1	4.1
32.80	Trio Hldgs	59	+2	2.5	5.4	∞

FOODS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
2,554.80	AB Food	569	+11½	...	3.3	11.6
1,594.50	ASDA Group	55	-½	1.6	3.8	...
112.20	Acatos & Hutch	340	...	8.0	3.0	∞
399.40	Albert Fisher	66	+1	3.7	7.1	∞
3,107.90	Argyll	277 †	-7	...	5.0	10.0
18.60	Banks (S C)	220	+3	9.0	5.1	9.8
58.40	Barr (AG)	309	...	6.5	2.6	15.6
10.50	Bensons Crisps▲	58	...	...	6.1	13.0
126.10	Berisford Intl	127	+20	...	...	...
871.60	Booker	409	+1	...	6.6	35.5
28.60	Borthwick	49½	...	...	3.0	61.5
237.30	Brake Bros	468	-6	6.3	1.7	19.5
65.10	Budgen	40	-1	...	3.1	12.1
4,227.90	Cadbury-Schw	510	+12	...	3.3	18.0
9.73	Carrs Milling	143	...	...	3.8	10.2
22.00	Cranswick	143	+10	...	6.2	15.2
3.40	Cullens	13	...	0.5	4.8	37.3
14.00	Dalepak	121	...	6.0	6.2	9.5
1,133.90	Dalgety	486	+22	...	5.2	14.2
4.16	Daniels S	50	...	...	0.6	...
336.10	Devro	249	-1	...	2.8	23.7
25.40	Everest	101	...	...	4.6	18.3
84.90	Ferrpak	375	+1	5.7	1.9	23.1
1.81	Fardingland	7	...	...	...	...
69.80	Finlay (James)	70	...	...	7.4	23.2
280.50	Fyffes	100	...	...	1.6	18.0
240.50	Geest	335	-3	8.1	3.0	15.1
16.90	Global▲	14	...	...	4.5	21.8
19.40	Grand Central	49	...	0.8	2.0	...
338.40	Hazlewood Fds	146 †	-8	...	5.6	8.2
1,122.30	Hillsdown	163	+12	8.8	6.7	12.8
477.60	Iceland Group	174	+7	...	2.5	11.0
41.90	JLI Group	101	+2	...	5.9	11.0
914.60	Kwik Save	592	+6	...	3.9	10.7
86.00	Low (Wm)	161	+6½	...	6.5	5.6
106.70	Matthews (B)	86	+7½	2.3	3.4	56.3
11.80	Merchant Retail	13	...	0.9	9.3	26.2
763.70	Morrison (W)	107	+2	...	1.0	13.0
89.30	Nichols (JN)	226	...	5.5	3.1	16.4
1,311.70	Nthn Foods	229 †	+21½	...	4.6	11.2
4.30	Nrthmbrn Fn▲	9	+1	...	...	...
229.70	Nurdin Peack	181	-4	...	4.3	10.0
144.60	Park Foods	275	+28	...	2.7	21.2
83.50	Perkins Food	68	+8	...	8.2	7.8
58.80	PizzaExpress	111	+5	...	0.6	23.5
7.35	Regina Hlth▲	5½	+1½	...	...	...
7,818.50	Sainsbury J	438	-12	...	2.9	15.4
3.18	Sentry Farm▲	73	...	...	2.6	13.1
27.80	Sims Food	93 †	+1	...	8.7	17.9
1,413.30	Tate & Lyle	395	+1	...	4.1	10.4
4,161.60	Tesco	212	-8	...	4.3	9.6
103.20	Thorntons	162	...	...	2.8	...
13.80	Trent▲	145	...	...	3.2	16.6
880.30	Unigate	364	+6	...	5.6	11.9
1,884.80	Utd Biscuits	359	+11	...	5.3	22.2
19.30	Usborne	21	...	...	3.2	15.5
108.30	Watson & Phil	279	+3	13.2	5.9	14.5

HOTELS, CATERERS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
3.12	Abrdn Stk H▲	26	...	...	...	...
171.70	City Centre Rest	90	+7	1.5	2.2	21.7
2,269.80	Forte	261	+1	...	3.6	20.5
28.90	Friendly Hotels	174	+25	...	4.1	33.9
7.49	Harmony Prop▲	9½	...	...	...	...
55.00	Jurys Hotel	162	+8	...	3.9	13.1
1,871.20	Ladbroke	164	+5	11.3	8.5	14.0
577.30	Mandarin Orntl	85	+4	...	4.0	21.1
439.00	Queens Moat	47½ #	...	...	3.7	...
160.50	-do- 7¼% cnpr	85 #	...	7.5	11.0	...
7.16	Regal Hotels▲	1½	...	...	...	...
49.80	Resort Hotels	45 #	...	3.4	9.6	8.8
12.10	Ryan Hotels	18½	...	...	6.8	...
228.20	Savoy Hotel 'A'	798	-2	7.0	1.1	...
244.10	Stakis	64	+1	...	0.9	...

INDUSTRIALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
8.28	AAF Inds	36	+9	...	...	2.2
435.80	AAH	480	+2	...	4.6	16.0
19.60	AIM	141	+3	7.5	6.6	8.5
347.50	APV	118	+3½	...	5.7	...
105.20	ASW	157	-1	...	4.8	...
139.80	Adwest	172	+12	...	5.2	16.6
7.22	Aerospace Eng	19	+½	...	4.9	25.0
68.30	Airsprung	288 †	+10	...	2.0	18.4
64.70	Alexdra W	192	+3	4.1	2.7	30.4
3.69	Allied Radio	7½	...	...	...	...
87.70	Alumasc	283	+3	...	2.6	16.7
21.40	Alvis	39	+2	1.0	3.3	∞
28.40	Amber Ind	725	+40	...	3.3	16.6
13.40	Amberley Gp▲	50	...	...	2.5	...
37.70	Anagen	81	...	...	...	...
9.70	Andrews Sykes	68	+1	...	5.5	...
313.70	Antofagasta	998	+18	...	2.0	18.4
13.00	Armour	48	+3	...	4.3	11.4
43.80	Ash & Lacy	168	+4	6.4	4.8	17.2
9.19	Ast Br Eng	3½	...	...	1.8	...
125.10	Avon Rubber	474 †	-1	...	4.4	∞
29.30	Assoc Nursg▲	265	-2	...	0.5	16.2
51.30	Atlas Equip	493	-10	...	5.6	12.4
6.60	Ayrshire Metal	66	...	...	...	...
781.30	BBA	193	-3	...	4.9	16.4
7.64	BLP Group▲	115	+24	...	...	...
27.10	BM Gp	24½	+½	0.5	3.3	...
3,208.20	BOC	674	+34	...	4.3	15.9
161.00	BSG	62	+1	...	6.5	21.6
142.80	BSS Group	549 †	...	...	3.9	30.6
13,133.20	BTR	377½	+23½	...	3.7	21.1
70.60	BWI	148	-4	...	5.7	13.7
158.80	Babcock	29½	-1	...	4.7	17.6
4.26	Bailey (CH)	7½	...	...	...	...
257.90	Baird (Wm)	228	-2	8.9	4.9	15.8
1,583.10	Barlow Rand	809½	+18½	...	4.2	∞
88.80	Baynes (Charles)	64	+3	...	2.9	26.2
3.47	Beauford	4½	-¼	...	...	...
2.21	Beckenham▲	29	...	...	...	...
1.39	Bedford (W)▲	28	...	...	...	...
20.20	Benson Group	15½	...	...	2.4	11.7
82.30	Bespak	325	+25	10.2	4.0	10.0
103.20	Bibby (J)	66	+9	2.0	3.8	∞
3.66	Billam (J)	226	-43	5.3	2.9	11.4
2.53	Bilston Bttrses▲	30	...	...	...	...
4.51	Birnec Ind	3½	...	...	...	...
52.90	Birkby	243 †	+4	3.7	1.9	12.6
7.67	Black Arrow	31	...	2.1	8.5	9.7
6.09	Black & Edgtn▲	1½	...	...	...	...
140.50	Black (Peter)	256	+4	3.7	1.8	22.5
43.30	Bluebird Toys▲	356	-19	...	1.0	16.9
151.40	Bodycote	262	+3	...	2.4	16.8
1.80	Bogod 'A'	33	+3	0.7	2.7	12.2
6,015.80	Boots	579	+29	...	3.0	22.9
1.80	Booth Inds	45	+2	...	...	...
2,410.20	Bowater	483	+4	...	3.1	20.2
571.40	Bowater Inc	1577	-9	...	...	...
57.70	Boxmore Intl▲	260	+15	...	1.8	19.5
11.70	Braeway	15	+½	...	4.3	...
129.00	Brammer	288	...	13.0	5.6	21.4
7.34	Bridgend Gp	25	+2	0.4	...	...
68.60	Bridon	121	-1	...	4.1	...
8.11	Bridport-Gndry	81	+9	...	3.9	...
1,211.00	Brierley Inv	48	+1	...	7.0	11.6
21.30	Br Bldg & Eng	190	...	8.0	5.3	∞
4.44	Br Bloodstock▲	117	-1	...	...	...
133.20	Br Polythene	447	-24	...	2.9	16.0
2,450.00	Br Steel	122½	-10½	...	1.5	...
28.80	Br Syphon	85	...	...	4.4	23.8
28.10	Br Thornton	175	-11	...	3.6	17.9
525.70	Br Vita	244	...	7.3	3.7	15.0
77.10	Britton Grp	15	+½	...	1.5	...
12,380.30	Broken Hill	746	-4	...	2.4	35.2
64.30	Bromsgrve Ind	90	-1	...	6.1	11.7
4.29	Brooke Tool	11½	+2	...	...	...
18.20	Brown & Tawse	51	+8	...	...	...
188.20	Bullough	157	+22	6.0	4.8	26.9
6.53	Business Tech▲	14	...	...	...	...
13.00	CI Group	15	...	0.5	4.8	14.4
5.63	Campbll & Arm	39	+1	...	...	...
33.00	Cannon St	32	-½	...	...	...
134.80	Cape	254 †	...	...	5.2	17.2
2,460.90	Caradon	415	+17	...	2.6	33.5
359.10	-do- pf	199½	+8½	7.2	4.5	...
164.30	Carclo Eng	272	+14	8.6	4.0	19.4
1,754.00	Carnaud Mtl	2175	-87	...	2.8	∞
4.32	Cassidy Bros▲	80	+1	...	3.8	13.1
46.40	Castings	220 †	-1	4.6	2.6	15.5
171.30	Cathay Intl	61	-1	...	...	...
12.40	Chamberlin Hill	170	...	6.5	4.8	10.6
494.50	Charter	723 †	+6	...	3.8	11.1
61.40	Chemring	315	-9	9.0	3.6	∞
3.09	Chieftain Gp▲	46	...	4.5	12.2	9.9
13.00	Chillington	40	-2	1.0	3.2	...
362.50	Christies Int	226	-1	...	0.8	56.1
11.40	Claybithe	68	...	...	4.6	...
1.20	Clayton Son	55	...	...	...	...
1.22	Co Designers▲	7 #	...	...	...	...
7.46	Cohen (A)	403	...	3.4	1.1	...
79.10	Community H	362	...	...	3.6	16.5
114.20	Concentric	211 †	+6	5.8	3.5	∞
60.00	Cook (Wm)	274	+6	6.0	2.7	16.6
1,306.90	Cookson	293	+2	...	3.2	30.8
8.80	Copymore▲	81	+1	...	1.5	24.7
59.40	Crawft Plr 'A'	147	-2	...	4.8	19.9
12.90	Cosalt	112 †	...	5.3	6.0	∞
11.30	Creighton Nts▲	248 †	-21	...	3.8	17.4
65.60	CrestaCare	243	+3	0.6	2.1	33.7
1,773.60	Dana	3862½	+175	...	...	...
533.40	Danish Bs Syl	284	+3	...	0.7	23.0
140.30	David Brown	244	+1	...	3.1	17.3
1.14	Davies (DY)▲	18	...	...	...	...
1,429.90	De La Rue	848	+2	...	2.8	20.4
4.90	Dinkie Heel	37	...	1.1	3.7	29.5
306.40	Diploma	550	-5	12.0	2.7	∞
111.30	Dobson Park	89 †	+1	3.7	5.3	∞
1.88	Dyson (J&J)	114	...	5.0	5.5	21.0
9.76	-do- 'A'	81	...	5.0	7.7	14.9
6.56	EFG	14	...	...	...	...
164.50	EIS	373	+10	...	4.0	14.8
3.79	Elbief	22	...	...	...	...
13.00	Eleco	45	...	...	...	0.00
1,602.80	Electrolux 'B'	2390	+43½	...	2.3	...
28.90	Elliott (B)	69	...	...	...	...
1,441.80	Eng China Cl	476	+34	...	5.3	27.7
18.00	Environmed	125	...	...	...	∞
5,067.10	Ericsson 'B'	2700	+215½	...	1.1	...
40.90	Eurocopy	84	+7	1.7	2.6	∞
37.90	Expamet	60	-9	...	5.0	1.4
249.50	Fairey Group	669	...	10.7	2.0	20.6
77.30	Fenner	112	-1	...	...	...
8.01	Ferraris Group	82 †	-2	2.0	3.0	∞
22.40	Ferromet▲	4	+¼	...	...	...
4.56	Ferrum	14	...	1.4	12.5	9.8
6.63	Fife Indmar	63	...	...	5.5	...
780.90	Fisons	113	+1	...	9.6	10.5
64.40	Fitzwilton	55	+2	...	8.2	...
64.70	Flogas	263	+10	...	3.8	12.0
11.70	Folkes Group nv	38	+5	1.5	4.9	21.6
11.30	French (Thomas)	94	+1	3.6	4.8	47.1
172.50	Frost Group	245	+8	...	2.3	31.7
28.30	GEI Int	77	...	...	4.0	...
1,399.20	GKN	530	+32	...	4.8	35.6
6.45	GR Hldgs	49	+3	...	4.6	...
3.47	Garton Eng	91	...	4.1	5.7	...
260.60	Gestetner	139	+4	8.2	7.4	6.1
11.10	Glaves	49	...	...	...	35.5
21,056.00	Glaxo	722	+14½	...	3.8	18.9
9.79	Glenchewton	37½	-½	...	...	...
755.10	Glynwed	366	+6	11.6	4.0	34.5
66.10	Goode Durrant	125	...	...	5.4	...
120.90	Grampian Hld	175	+12	5.5	3.9	30.4
2,903.80	Granada	535	+15	...	2.1	21.9
53.30	Great Sthrn▲	452	-2	...	3.2	18.6
6.52	Green (Ernst)▲	81	...	...	10.8	12.3
25.10	Greenacre▲	14½	...	...	2.6	14.3
1.14	Guardian Grp▲	6	...	...	...	...
60.20	Haden MacLn	68½	+½	...	3.6	24.7
7.38	Hadleigh Inds▲	98 †	-3	...	1.3	...
83.90	Hall Eng	276	+10	8.6	3.9	23.0
466.30	Halma	238	+15	...	1.1	28.3
47.00	Hampson Ind	47	-1	1.6	4.3	15.5
13,742.20	Hanson	272½	-2	...	5.2	20.2
16.40	Harris (Philip)	147 †	...	...	5.8	8.9
1,359.60	Harrisn Crsfld	195	...	9.0	5.8	28.1
31.40	Havelock Eurn	121	+3	...	...	...
5.70	Hay (Norman)	38	...	...	...	...
5.31	Headway	33	+4	...	2.7	...
0.88	Healthcare	1½	-1½	...	...	0.5
918.20	Hepworth	444	+4	14.8	4.2	19.1
11.50	Hewitt (J)	203	-2	3.2	2.0	15.9
2.81	High-Point	55	+2	0.5	1.1	...
53.00	Hill & Smith	178	+12	...	4.0	24.8
14.60	Hobson▲	16	...	...	...	77.0
5.36	Holders Tech▲	172	...	...	4.4	22.4
36.70	Hopkinsons	47	+2	0.9	2.4	35.6
14.30	Hornby▲	176	-8	...	6.4	16.6
218.60	Howden	78	+2½	2.2	3.5	14.4
206.80	Hunting	215	-3	...	5.8	18.1
135.30	Huntleigh Tech▲	478	+3	...	2.6	12.2
1,058.00	IMI	328	+15	...	3.8	29.1
46.20	ISA Intl	119	+5	1.5	1.6	18.5
39.50	Intercare Gp▲	153	-4	...	2.9	∞
35.20	Isotron	284	+4	4.3	1.9	16.5
4,583.30	Jardine Math	643	+23	...	2.0	23.3
1,015.10	Johnson Mattn	534 †	+9	...	2.5	20.8
51.90	Johnson & FB	37 †	+½	1.3	4.6	∞
17.00	Johnston	162	...	3.2	...	...
6.94	Jones Shipman	27	+2	...	...	...
5.49	Jourdan (T)	29	...	0.7	3.2	...
197.30	Kalon	149	-7	...	2.9	20.7
7.07	Kelsey Ind	230	-25	8.0	4.4	∞
253.80	Kershaw (A)	730	...	27.0	4.6	37.9
38.30	Kleeneze	276	+7	1.0	0.5	∞
7.11	LGW▲	160	...	3.4	2.7	13.3
399.70	Laird	341	+2	...	3.8	16.8
39.00	Lilleshall	145	+2	...	3.8	19.1
14.00	Lincat▲	205	...	...	3.7	14.4
7.69	Lincoln Hse▲	30½	...	...	...	25.1
11.40	Linread	18	...	3.8	5.0	14.7
48.10	Linton Park	313	...	...	5.6	11.3
20.60	Lionheart	10½	...	0.2	2.4	...
5.10	Locker (T) A	17	...	0.8	6.3	24.7
228.40	Lon Intl	135	+1	6.2	5.8	...
990.80	Lonrho	129	-1½	4.0	3.9	...
336.20	Low & Bonar	365	+8	...	3.2	31.1
66.80	ML Hldgs	44½	+1½	...	...	...
14.90	MS Intl	55	+1	...	5.8	55.6
20.40	MY Holdings	49	...	...	3.3	∞
168.60	Macfarlane	223	+5	...	1.9	25.3
408.10	McKechnie	449	...	14.7	4.1	∞
72.00	McLeod Russel	119	+4	...	6.4	17.6
5.74	Magnolia	100	...	0.1	0.1	16.1
21.40	Mang Bronze	130	...	2.5	2.4	∞
36.30	Marling	20½	...	...	5.2	...
42.90	Mayborn▲	216	+5	...	3.0	16.6
105.00	Mayflower	53	...	...	1.1	44.3
360.50	Medeva	132	-5	...	2.3	10.7
208.20	Meggitt	96½	+½	...	5.0	16.4
95.80	Metair	116	+2	...	4.0	19.0
28.90	Metrotect	120 †	-4	...	3.4	16.7
15.30	Metsec▲	99	+1	...	...	...
48.90	Midsmes	97	+10	...	1.0	13.5
7.38	Mining & Aid	23	-2	0.7	4.2	∞
178.30	Molins	375	+15	...	3.1	13.8
784.10	Morgan Cble	360	+5	...	4.4	18.9
20.70	Morris Ashby▲	176	-1	...	4.1	13.2
8.16	Neepsend	34	...	1.0	3.7	45.6
47.10	Nestor-BNA	63	+2	3.1	6.3	15.1
26.20	Nobo Gp	214	+14	4.8	2.8	21.1
337.20	Norcros	193	+2	...	4.6	27.7
20.80	Novo Group	33	-5	...	4.2	10.6
176.40	Nu-Swift	399	-4	...	...	∞
3.55	Office Elec Mac	58	...	...	...	...
23.60	Ohd Intl	53	...	...	4.2	...
12.50	PCT▲	164	...	...	5.5	18.6
4.14	Pacer Systems▲	88	...	...	4.9	...
387.50	Pentland	102	+½	...	3.2	11.9
172.30	Photo-Me	280	+2	4.6	2.0	18.8
1,409.10	Pilkington	179 †	+8	...	1.8	...
93.00	Plansbrook	93	+1	3.1	4.2	14.7
220.50	Polypipe	141	...	2.1	1.9	19.1
15.10	Porter Chadbn	16	...	...	3.1	7.3
2.40	Porth Gp▲	12½	-½	...	...	...
275.00	Powerscreen	319	+23	...	2.7	16.6
33.50	Prospect Inds	19	...	0.8	5.4	∞
6.70	RPS Group▲	56	...	2.3	5.1	12.4
1.16	Radiant Metal	85	...	...	...	...
27.50	Ramco Oil▲	152	...	...	0.8	50.9
3,221.00	Rank Org	985	+12	31.0	3.9	26.9
7.37	Ransomes	13	...	...	...	...
2,643.80	Reckitt Colm	705	+27	...	3.0	18.2
23.30	Record	70	...	3.6	6.4	34.4
4.83	Reece	3½	...	...	...	...
56.70	Relyon	270	-7	3.0	2.3	32.4
144.00	Renishaw	295	...	...	2.8	35.1
82.90	Renold	126	+5	...	1.7	...
7,754.20	Reuters	1964	+100	22.1	1.5	30.8
13.60	Rexmore	74	+3	2.0	3.5	...
57.80	Ricardo Group	183	+4	...	3.9	25.9
5.86	Richards (Leics)	70	...	3.7	6.7	...
22.40	Richardsn West	85	+2	3.0	4.5	21.8
8.50	Ropner	133	+6	8.2	7.9	18.4
19.70	-do- 'A'	128	+6	8.2	8.2	17.9
24.10	Ross Gp	18½	...	0.6	4.4	7.6
149.30	Rotork	170	+2	...	2.7	19.9
32.80	Rubicon	167	-2	...	3.3	23.4
14.60	Russell (A)	62	...	...	1.0	...
29.80	SEP Indl	37 †	+6	0.8	2.7	∞
695.20	SKF 'B'	1087½	+62½	...	...	...
59.00	Saville Grdn (J)	59	...	...	...	...
345.70	Scapa	233 †	+17	...	4.7	29.4
121.00	Schroll	180	-2	...	3.0	17.4
1.70	Scot Heritable	5 #	...	...	4.4	13.1
183.80	Scotia	285	...	...	...	...
47.60	Securicor	1148	+14	2.6	0.3	43.7
664.50	-do- 'A'	892	+17	2.6	0.4	33.9
342.90	Security Serv	799	+9	5.1	0.8	38.0
206.60	Senior Eng	123	+5½	...	3.3	20.5
92.70	Seton Health	312	-4	...	2.4	18.4
2.22	Sheldon Jones▲	43	...	...	...	...
8.16	Shiloh	138	+1	3.0	2.7	14.9
164.10	Sidlaw	300	+3	...	4.4	14.9
2,437.50	Siebe	569½	+½	...	2.3	20.0
169.00	Silentnight	358	+3	...	2.8	19.4
2,633.20	Sime Darby	168	+14	...	3.2	∞
121.70	Simon Eng	121	+14	...	...	...
40.80	Sinclair (Wm)	187	-1	...	4.7	14.6
19.40	Six Hundred	36	...	...	5.2	...
1,537.20	Smith & Neph	149	+2	...	4.0	16.6
5,486.90	SmithKline	400½	-4½	9.6	3.0	14.5
4,794.60	SmithKline Uts	366	+3	...	3.3	12.4
1,354.70	Smiths Ind	454	+10	...	3.3	18.2
72.40	Stkn Bus	75	...	3.5	5.8	7.1
50.10	Spandex▲	466	...	...	1.8	20.7
26.80	Spear (JW)	510	...	4.5	1.1	9.5
260.50	Spirax-Sarco	337	+1	...	3.4	21.1
207.40	Spring Ram	56	+6	...	0.5	18.1
241.00	Staveley	211	-1	...	5.0	11.9
55.20	Sterling Ind	197	+5	...	3.8	28.0
197.60	Suter	180	+6	9.0	6.3	18.8
	Swire Pacif 'A'	549	+11	...	1.6	∞
3.57	Sycamore	2½	+¼	...	...	...
4.90	Sykes-Pick	53	...	...	7.3	10.1
27.40	Syltone	168	+2	...	3.6	24.0
1,906.50	TI	410	+8	...	3.3	28.0
11.20	TLS Range▲	31	-2	...	1.0	...
337.60	TT Group	330	+4	...	2.5	20.3
328.00	Takare	262	-78	...	0.9	22.8
5,912.10	Takeda Chem	676	-56	...	0.9	12.9
4.05	Tex Hldgs	61	...	...	...	...
7.14	Tinsley (B)▲	98	+1	...	7.3	16.5
24.70	Titon▲	230	-1	...	2.4	∞
2,616.10	Tomkins	234	-9	...	3.4	17.2
900.40	Trafalgar H	93	+16½	...	4.5	...
66.80	Transfer Tech	20 †	+2	3.3	5.7	8.8
87.10	Triplex Lloyd	135	+1	...	6.6	15.9
390.30	UniChem	228	+3	6.4	2.9	18.2
70.20	Unidare	365	...	...	3.5	∞
11.40	Unigroup	37	...	...	...	...
9,853.60	Unilever	1215	+43	22.2	2.3	16.5
12,670.50	Unilever (NV)	7887½	+237½	...	2.7	13.0
4.70	Utd Inds	12	+2½	...	...	...
325.20	VSEL	858	+31	...	4.4	9.3
20.50	Verson	14½	+2½	...	...	...
571.90	Vickers	174	+5	...	1.6	...
116.70	Victaulic	264	+1	...	3.7	13.0
184.00	Vinten	451	+3	...	2.0	21.0
204.20	Vosper Thorny	661	+4	...	3.1	15.3
3.93	WSP Hldgs	37	-1	...	9.1	9.6
199.30	Wagon Ind	451	+2	...	4.9	19.6
12.50	Wakebourne	1½	...	...	...	8.2
96.70	Walker Greenbk	101	...	3.1	3.8	25.5
382.60	Wassall	254	+3	2.7	1.4	25.6
311.90	Watford Wdgwd	44	-1	...	...	...
497.00	Weir	318	+35	...	2.4	17.9
3,644.20	Wellcome	651	-4	...	3.3	13.8
7.09	Wellman	22 †	-1	0.9	5.1	35.9
171.90	West Hlthcare	337	+4	...	1.4	21.6
104.20	Whatman	455	...	9.7	2.7	15.4
83.10	Whessoe	277	+5	8.2	4.9	∞
40.90	Whitecroft	93½	...	...	...	...
13.70	Widney	10½	...	...	...	...
21.20	Willes (James)	120	...	3.5	...	35.1
1,788.50	Williams Hldg	365	+6	12.5	4.3	19.1
32.50	Wilshaw	39½	-1	...	1.7	24.9
2,300.90	Wolseley	866 †	-8	...	1.9	25.8
3.10	Wood (Arthur)	155	...	1.5	1.2	58.5
13.80	Wyko	42	+2	...	3.0	...
11.60	Young (H)	70 †	+16	3.3	5.9	∞

INSURANCE

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
487.00	Alex & Alex	1275	+50	...	5.2	...
3,886.40	Am Gen	1795½	-25	...	4.1	...
17.50	Archer (AF)	69	+4	1.0	1.8	...
11.10	Berry Bch Nbl▲	170	+1	...	4.0	13.2
81.60	Bradstock	150	+5	5.5	4.7	∞
817.90	Britannic	433	+9	...	3.4	...
3,630.70	Com Union	653	+9	...	4.6	...
118.90	Dom & Gen	1748	+5	...	1.6	23.1
113.90	FAI	46	-2	...	...	...
3,269.80	Gen Accident	725	+2	26.7	4.6	...
1,935.60	GRE	223	+11	7.1	4.0	18.5
267.60	Heath C E	413	+50	...	4.8	...
95.90	Hogg Gp	148	-3	8.1	6.9	13.4
220.50	JIB Group	174	+5	...	5.4	17.8
2,533.00	Legal & Gen	518	+17	...	4.7	31.5
2,609.50	Liberty Life	1119	+4	...	9.5	21.8
333.20	LIMIT	119	+8	...	...	...
2,792.60	Lloyds Abbey	415	+1	17.3	5.2	14.9
181.80	Lloyd Thomp	269	+2	6.7	3.1	16.7
449.80	Londn & Man	373	+16	14.7	4.9	27.5
123.80	Lowndes Lmb	436 †	+3	14.0	4.0	15.7
3,942.10	Marsh McLn	5375	+31½	...	3.3	...
24.30	Oriel	118	-1	...	3.5	...
23.50	PWS	75	+4	4.0	6.7	10.9
6,760.80	Prudential	358	+10½	...	4.3	23.8
303.90	Refuge	321 †	-1	...	4.2	8.9
2,161.20	Royal	333	+15	...	2.4	...
981.50	Sedgwick	191	+6	...	3.9	23.5
56.60	Steel Burrill	121	+4	...	12.4	7.1
34.40	Sturge Hldgs	68	-1	3.0	5.7	∞
3,106.90	Sun Alliance	385	+10	14.2	4.6	...
155.30	Trade Indemnity	85	...	...	...	...
1,037.50	Transatlantic	350	+10	12.0	4.3	32.5
469.30	Utd Friendly	573	+28	15.1	3.3	25.0
905.80	Willis Corroon	217	+7	...	3.8	46.6
6.62	Windsor	24	-1	...	...	18.9

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
980.80	Alliance	1946	+66	45.5	2.9	42.6
236.60	Amer Trust	284	+4½	5.2	2.3	58.9
508.20	Ang & O'seas	445	+10	6.8	1.9	56.5
80.80	B2W Conv	160 †	+2	7.8	6.1	18.8
309.80	Bankers	200	+1½	3.6	2.3	∞
185.20	Baring Tribne	361	+7	6.4	2.2	57.1
30.30	Berry Starq	198	-3	2.2	1.4	64.4
439.70	Br Assets	114½	+1½	...	4.7	23.3
120.00	Br Empire Sec	90½	+1½	...	1.3	76.9
4.59	-do- Wnts	34½	+2½	...	...	...
670.80	Br Inv	215	+8	4.6	2.7	48.5
46.90	Contl Asset	216	+7	2.4	1.4	71.9
18.20	Derby Inc	154	+1	...	11.6	9.3
47.50	-do- Cap	310	+5	...	...	...
12.00	Drayton Blue	95 †	+3	8.4	11.1	10.5
38.10	-do- Eng Intl	84	+1	1.0	1.5	...
164.70	-do- Far East	142½	+2½	0.6	0.5	...
35.10	-do- Korea	152½	+3½	0.5	0.4	...
240.90	Dunedin Inc G	760	+27	...	4.2	35.0
34.00	-do- Japan	85	-1	...	...	...
3.60	-do- Warrants	45	...	...	...	...
254.30	-do- Wwde	759 †	+13	9.5	1.6	...
50.60	Dundee & Lon	301 †	+10	9.0	3.7	∞
1,003.30	Edinburgh	341½	+14	8.5	3.1	37.4
553.60	Electra Inv	320	+17	7.0	2.8	∞
183.50	Electric Gen	203	+8	3.1	2.0	62.8
1.79	English Scot	119	+4	...	...	...
83.30	European Asset	334	+9	...	2.2	49.4
23.00	Finsbury 'A'	146	+8	3.0	2.6	47.0
212.80	Fleming Amer	321½	+4½	0.8	0.3	...
130.90	-do- Claver	249½	+10½	...	2.7	48.4
133.80	Do Contl	358	+24	2.7	0.9	...
89.20	-do- Entp	223	+10	...	2.6	45.1
657.20	-do- F East	435	+6	1.1	0.3	...
46.00	-do- Fledg	365	+11	3.0	1.0	...
34.30	-do- Hi Inc	120	+2	...	4.6	20.5
259.40	-do- Japan	225	-2	...	0.3	...
447.90	-do- Merc	310 †	+12	6.7	2.7	66.3
434.90	-do- O'seas	327½	+15½	4.2	1.6	68.6
1,518.70	Foreign & Col	289	+7	...	1.5	78.7
133.00	-do- Emg Mkts	133	+9	0.2	0.3	∞
66.30	-do- Enterprise	70½	+1	0.4	0.8	...
144.60	-do- Eurotst	241	+13	...	0.6	...
55.40	-do- German	141	-12	0.5	0.4	...
361.00	-do- Pacific	339	+1	...	0.8	...
155.20	-do- Smaller	174	+6½	1.8	1.3	...
159.40	GT Japan	259½	+1½	...	0.6	...
32.40	Genl Cons Cap	170	+4	...	...	...
40.20	-do- Inc	111	-1	...	9.5	11.5
42.10	Govett Am Smlr	169	+2	...	...	...
41.70	-do- Emg Mkts	139	+4	...	...	...
738.60	-do- Oriental	411	+9	0.9	0.3	...
290.70	-do- Strategy	296	+16	...	2.0	41.4
48.60	Greenfriar	423	+6	...	1.9	63.5
0.82	Gresham House	19	...	...	...	...
373.60	Inv Cap	151	+2	...	4.2	29.0
30.40	IBS UK Smlr	105	+6	3.8	3.3	29.3
187.10	Kleinwort Chrt	231	+13	5.1	2.8	∞
207.30	-do- O'seas	259½	+13½	3.3	1.6	73.5
19.50	-do- Smlr	139	...	...	3.1	33.7
162.50	Law Debenture	804	+35	18.5	2.9	40.2
113.90	Majedie	217	+5	...	2.9	40.5
315.60	Merchants	308½	+11½	...	4.5	28.7
9,611.50	Merrill Lynch	2957½	-137½	...	...	...
46.20	Monks Inv Tst	57½ †	-26	...	1.5	72.8
36.40	Morg Grenf Inc	149	+3	4.5	3.8	∞
2.73	Do Warrants	56	+1	...	...	...
19.20	Murray Euro	62	+2	0.1	0.3	...
1.38	Do Wts	23	+2½	...	...	...
322.60	Murray Income	385 †	+8	10.9	3.5	36.8
461.60	-do- Intl	394	+10	11.0	3.8	34.0
274.90	-do- Small	490	+10	...	1.1	...
4.89	-do- S/C Inc	89	...	...	14.9	∞
5.43	-do- S/C Cap	138	+5	...	4.2	∞
1.63	-do- S/C Uts	3150	-½	...	...	...
9.55	-do- S/C DP	159½	...	...	3.9	28.5
87.20	-do- Vent	353	+21½	6.7	9.3	17.0
36.00	Northgt Inc	92	...	...	1.0	...
144.00	O'seas Inv Tst	378	+19	1.1	0.2	...
123.70	Pacific Assets	624½	+2½	...	...	...
20.20	Do Warrants	527	-1	...	...	...
13.10	Personal Assets	8675	+375	19.0	2.8	51.2
353.70	RIT Cap Ptnr	185	+12	1.1	0.8	...
24.90	River & Merc	124	+2	9.2	9.3	12.4
	Robeco	425	+7	...	3.0	...
	Rolinco	430	+5	...	1.8	...
99.80	St Andrew Inv	290	+3	7.5	3.3	39.0
382.40	Scot American	171	+3½	...	3.4	36.2
75.00	Scot Asian	357	+11	...	...	...
7.35	do Warrants	1050	+37	...	...	...
570.20	-do- Eastern	90	+4	1.5	2.1	59.1
626.10	Scottish	246	+9	4.9	2.5	∞
901.80	-do- Mtge	250	+13	4.0	2.0	64.9
55.80	-do- Value	116½	+2	1.8	1.9	...
300.00	Second Allnce	1719	+90	...	2.8	43.3
321.90	Secs Tst of Scot	100½	+5½	3.2	4.0	33.2
48.60	Selective Asset	168	+5	1.2	0.9	60.4
53.40	Sphere Inv	44	+2½	3.1	8.8	14.2
89.70	TR Far East	193	+8	...	3.2	36.7
329.50	TR City Of Lon	165½	+2½	...	3.6	36.0
157.40	TR Pacific	235	+15	0.5	0.2	...
115.90	TR Property	47½	+2½	0.9	2.8	42.7
59.60	TR Tech Inv	134	+2	1.7	1.6	49.7
361.70	TR Smlr Cos	203	+8	...	2.3	46.9
224.60	Temple Bar	392	+8	13.2	4.2	29.6
129.00	Thrmtn Asian E	129	+2	0.5	0.5	...
246.30	Throgmorton	81	+5	2.3	3.5	33.1
18.20	Throg Dual Cp	535	+15	...	...	...
93.00	USDC Invest	254	+9	4.5	2.2	46.7
50.50	Value Inc Tst	119	+½	4.0	4.2	29.9
583.20	Whitbread Inv	925	+5	16.5	2.2	55.7
921.40	Witan	245½	+9½	5.6	2.9	43.0

LEISURE

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
447.70	Airtours	485	+5	...	2.4	15.2
26.80	Ald Leis	42	...	...	8.9	13.7
190.00	Anglia TV	428	+10	...	2.7	19.8
15.70	Baldwin	86	...	4.6	6.7	11.7
26.70	Barr & W 'A'	269	+5	10.0	4.6	17.4
45.00	Boosey Hwks	1155	...	22.0	2.4	17.3
15.30	Border TV▲	149	-7	...	3.1	13.3
18.00	Brent Walker	6	+1	...	...	...
6.42	Bristol Scots	115	-5	...	...	...
7.23	Buckingham Int	6	-½	...	...	...
7.18	Campari	69	...	8.7	15.9	...
232.20	Capital Radio	328	+39	5.7	2.2	∞
1,882.90	Carlton Comm	946	+56	...	2.5	22.3
16.60	Castle Comm▲	248	+2	...	4.3	16.4
782.80	Central TV	2910	+105	39.0	1.7	31.7
39.50	Chrysalis	115	+7	3.2	3.6	...
608.60	Compass Gp	677	+34	...	2.4	18.6
61.00	Eurocamp	232	+15	9.7	5.3	9.6
634.10	Euro Disney	373	-15	...	3.1	...
3.81	Euro Leisure	2½	+½	...	...	...
25.80	Ex-Lands	35½	+½	...	1.2	...
10.80	Fairline Boats	308	-6	10.5	4.4	∞
462.60	First Leisure	284	+5	6.2	2.8	19.7
20.70	GWR Gp▲	695	+5	...	1.7	∞
32.30	Grampian	229	...	6.5	3.5	15.9
1.05	Greenwich Comm▲	15	...	...	...	...
73.30	HTV Group	106	-2	...	...	47.1
30.10	Hi-Tec Sports	62	+2	...	4.5	...
28.30	Kunick	11½	+½	...	...	∞
644.40	LWT Hldgs	623	+24	...	1.0	28.8
65.80	Man Utd	539	+6	...	4.5	21.8
10.90	Northern	37½	-1½	...	...	...
132.10	Owners Abrd	81	+1	3.9	6.0	6.5
30.70	The Pelican Gp	71	...	...	1.9	16.6
15.30	Prism Leisure▲	178	+8	...	2.3	16.5
8.89	Quadrant Grp	38	-2	...	...	...
36.50	Radio Clyde▲	405	+10	...	3.0	∞
12.30	Ransdens (H)	205	...	...	2.7	27.2
218.80	Scot TV	454	-7	10.3	2.9	22.3
18.40	Southern Radio	65	...	1.2	2.4	∞
139.20	Stanley Leisure	304	+22	4.3	1.8	24.0
7.36	Sunleigh▲	8	...	...	...	...
7.31	Sunset & Vine	128	...	3.5	3.4	19.5
647.30	Tanjong	345½	...	...	0.5	18.9
19.90	Ticketing▲	...	...	...	...	...
15.50	Tottenham Hot	97	-3	...	2.6	5.1
33.90	Trans World▲	85	...	...	1.2	31.0
54.40	Ulster TV	518	+14	12.0	2.9	15.9
82.60	Vardon	113	+1	0.8	0.9	26.7
43.80	Wembley	17	+1	...	...	...
76.30	Yorkshire TV	151	-7	12.0	9.9	4.6
7.41	Zetters Gp	113	-1	8.0	8.8	12.8

TT. 17.09 29-12

LOOKING FOR A SAFE BUY?

Every new BMW '94 model comes equipped with an airbag, ABS braking, side impact bars and a rigid safety cell as standard. So from £14,795 it's safe to say a BMW is a good investment.

THE ULTIMATE DRIVING MACHINE

For further information Freephone 0800 325600.

PRICE INCLUDES VAT AND 3 YEAR BMW DEALER WARRANTY BUT EXCLUDES ROAD FUND LICENCE AND, AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF £470 DELIVERY AND NUMBER PLATES. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. AIRBAG AND SIDE IMPACT BARS NOT STANDARD ON THE 318i AND 318i TOURING MODELS.

MINING

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1,412.60	Am Gold	5850	+9½	...	3.7	29.7
393.60	Ang Am Coal	1562½	...	...	5.8	8.3
6,883.30	Ang Am	2962½	-21½	...	2.2	26.2
22.90	Anglo Pac Res▲	29½	...	...	...	...
44.40	Blyvoors	185	+7	...	...	...
4.62	Bracken	33	-1	...	...	∞
86.00	Buffels	800	+3	...	7.9	7.3
5.89	Burse	2½	...	...	...	...
4,758.50	CRA	802	+22	...	2.5	27.6
26.10	Cluff Res	36	-½	...	...	...
5,513.00	De Beers	1450	-11½	...	3.3	20.0
122.40	Deelkraal	123	-5	...	2.3	14.2
16.00	Doornfontein	40	-27	...	...	...
1,258.50	Driefontein	862	+23	...	3.7	17.0
17.00	Durban	735	-5	...	...	...
66.50	E Rand Gold	143	+3	...	7.4	4.5
122.50	E Rand Prop	92	...	...	...	...
47.50	Eastern Trans	35	...	...	4.5	11.9
395.70	Elandsrand	408	-3	...	2.9	10.0
1,288.60	FS Cons	1083	+5	...	4.4	14.2
11.80	FS Dev	53	-4	...	...	...
1,399.00	GFSA	1450	-38	...	2.7	25.1
1,747.70	Gencor	127	+5	...	6.9	14.4
282.70	GM Kalgoorli	36½	-½	...	2.4	23.1
11.40	Greenwich R 'A'	14	-¼	...	...	...
17.20	Grootvlei	150	-1	...	6.7	9.4
92.20	Harmony	343	+1	...	...	...
487.80	Hartles	373	-23	...	7.3	14.8
31.00	Inco▲	15	...	...	...	...
547.60	Impala Plat	866	+52	...	3.2	29.9
10.50	Kenmare Res▲	10½	+2	...	...	...
308.30	Kinross	1157	+18	...	4.9	∞
1,056.10	Kloof	782	+15	...	3.1	10.7
19.00	Leslie	119	+6	...	8.7	∞
52.40	Loraine	320	-5	...	...	...
150.50	Lydenburg	930	...	...	2.1	∞
1,672.50	MIM	119½	+7	...	1.9	58.3
3,062.00	Minorco	1359	-71	...	2.9	16.0
1,082.30	Nth Brkn Hill	157	-1	...	3.1	25.8
610.70	Orange Free	2712½	-6½	...	6.1	21.9
8,405.60	RTZ	790	+15½	...	3.1	22.3
126.70	Rand Mines	212½	+56½	...	5.1	∞
423.10	Randfontein	692	+17	...	5.9	10.4
453.30	Renison	228	+23	...	1.9	23.6
1,488.20	Rustnbrg	1187½	+50	...	2.7	∞
64.50	St Helena	670	+7	...	3.6	14.3
552.50	Southvaal	2125	+36	...	2.6	38.9
11.60	Stilfontein	89	+6	...	6.9	16.3
41.70	Unisel	149	-1	...	3.5	...
7,742.50	Vaal Reefs	6500	+37½	...	3.3	11.7
247.50	Welkom	700	-9	...	6.1	21.9
237.80	Western Areas	590	-21	...	4.4	18.0
841.80	Western Deep	3037½	-59½	...	2.0	14.8
2,984.20	Wstrn Mining	311	+12	...	1.5	...
128.90	Winkels	1058	-24	...	3.6	∞
69.90	Zambia Copper	57	...	...	...	...
88.50	Zandpan	68	...	...	6.4	22.7

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
4.66	Abbey Panels	233	-15	...	...	...
9.82	Airflow Stream	115	...	3.0	3.3	11.1
86.00	Appleyard	140	+11	...	4.6	...
15.10	Bletchley Mtr	330	+24	...	3.5	16.8
28.40	Bostrom	180	...	6.0	4.2	31.8
1,523.30	Br Aerospace	403	+16	7.3	2.3	...
57.50	Burndene	51	+3	1.7	4.4	∞
13.70	Caffyns	413 †	+18	11.5	3.5	21.9
23.10	Caverdale	13½	-½	...	...	...
16.40	Central Mtr▲	125	...	...	4.1	31.3
14.90	Cook (DC)▲	35 †	...	...	3.2	19.9
406.40	Cowie (T)	284	+6	6.6	2.9	21.6
24.40	Dag Motors	135	-1	5.7	5.3	26.4
28.40	Davnport Vern	145	...	...	3.5	18.3
27.10	ERF	276	-38	2.0	0.9	...
51.90	European Mtr	138	+1	...	3.4	19.4
88.10	Evans Halshaw	408	+3	11.4	3.5	62.9
177.20	FR Group	235	-2	...	3.8	10.9
21,247.20	Ford Motor	4318½	-118½	...	...	...
26,112.50	General Mtr	3675	+12½	...	1.4	...
5.44	Gowrings	60	-1	2.0	4.2	...
109.70	Henlys	275	+5	3.5	1.6	...
8,520.00	Honda Motor	875	-56	...	1.0	...
3.79	Jacks (Wm)	35	-1	...	...	...
7.59	Jessups	86	...	4.5	6.5	...
272.60	Kwik-Fit	158½	+½	...	2.8	22.4
423.80	Lex Service	448	+1	...	3.2	24.5
31.00	Lookers	162	+12	6.2	4.8	...
1,434.60	Lucas	194	+3	...	4.5	...
22.30	Malaya Grp	25	...	...	...	...
100.70	Pendragon	261	+5	...	3.1	21.4
43.90	Perry Gp	175	+3	...	5.1	...
35.80	Quicks Group	156	+2	...	3.8	19.9
2,016.30	Rolls-Royce	165	-6	...	3.8	...
1,044.80	T & N	206	+8	...	6.5	29.6
135.20	Trinity Hldgs	263 †	+5	...	2.6	24.6
74.50	Vardy (Reg)	163	-1	...	3.2	22.8
242.10	Westland	253	+8	4.5	2.3	∞

NEWS, PUBLISHERS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
29.30	Adscene	198	...	5.0	3.2	20.3
3.16	Black (A&C)	335	...	13.5	5.0	13.7
284.30	Blenheim Gp	308	+3	...	3.8	11.5
59.80	Bristol	367 †	+2	...	4.1	23.1
565.00	Daily Mail	£113	-250	...	1.7	26.1
561.30	Daily Mail 'A'	£112½	-275	...	1.7	26.0
162.30	Dorling Kind	283	+18	...	1.6	23.8
4,141.70	Elsevier	6930	+450	...	1.5	23.5
739.10	EMAP	426	+12	...	2.4	26.3
397.90	Euromoney Pb	1450 †	-25	...	3.3	25.5
16.40	Harrington K	172	-1	4.7	3.4	14.1
68.10	Haynes Pub	328	+3	...	2.0	18.5
118.70	Hodder H'line	340	-3	5.1	1.9	21.9
12.00	Home Counts	120	+10	5.2	5.5	...
62.70	Intl Bus Comm	161	+4	...	...	23.3
9.31	Int Cm & Data▲	13½	...	...	...	...
321.60	Independent	410	...	...	3.1	22.1
189.70	Johnstone Press	551	+12	6.5	1.5	23.8
32.90	Metal Bulletin	538	...	8.2	3.0	22.9
681.40	Mirror Gp	170	+6	...	...	...
7,995.70	News Corp	435	-15	...	0.3	...
1,892.30	News Intl	274	+3	...	0.6	16.9
3,327.50	Pearson	605	-1	...	2.5	32.9
80.40	Portsmth Sund	690	+1	...	1.8	18.5
5,082.30	Reed Int	907	+63	...	2.4	39.5
28.50	Southnews	188	+3	...	1.6	34.8
65.30	Sterling Pubs	160	-4	...	2.4	19.4
652.70	Telegraph	487	+33	...	3.1	20.5
4,527.10	Thomson Corp	795	...	30.1	4.7	39.7
298.70	Trinity Intl	436	+12	9.0	2.6	26.1
1.12	Unit Group▲	21	...	...	...	...
1,593.00	Utd Nwspprs	653	+27	...	4.1	18.2

OILS, GAS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
73.00	Aran Energy	26	+3½	...	...	28.3
21.50	Arcon Ind▲	37	+1	...	...	...
	Aus Oil & Gas	59	-2	...	...	...
18.00	Aviva Pet	57	-5	...	...	...
2.78	Beverley	8	+3	...	...	79.5
90.40	Br Borneo	201	...	7.1	4.4	6.1
14,646.90	British Gas	330½	-18½	14.2	5.2	16.4
19,678.10	Br Petroleum	361	+13	8.4	2.9	28.4
11.90	Bula Resources	1½	...	...	...	...
1,612.70	Burmah Castrl	827	...	...	...	...
36.30	Cairn Energy	56	+3	...	3.8	19.3
532.10	Calor Gp	316	+1	...	...	8.0
187.70	Clyde Pet	47	+4	...	4.7	17.2
30.40	Copley Res	30	-½	...	...	...
2.84	Edin Oil & Gas▲	17	...	...	...	...
2,304.20	Enterprise	448	-10½	...	4.5	24.7
20.60	Exp Co Louis	28	...	...	...	...
33.00	Fairhaven Intl	22½	...	...	...	...
30.30	Fortune	4½	...	...	4.8	8.1
72.40	Goal Pet	34	...	...	...	...
28.10	Gt Western Res	31	+2	1.4	3.2	10.3
175.00	Hardy O & G	155	+8	...	0.8	14.4
61.60	Kelt Energy	40	...	...	3.5	24.1
893.10	LASMO	119	-2	...	...	...
4.89	-do- Units	69	-1	9.4	17.1	...
5.30	Mid Scot Res▲	2½	+½	...	...	...
370.30	Monument	39½	+1½	...	...	...
5.63	New London	4½	...	...	...	...
15.10	Nth Sea Assets	26	-1	1.0	4.5	10.0
125.50	Oil Search	41	+3	...	...	...
	Petroz	16	...	...	...	...
79.50	Pict Pet	154	+1	...	...	...
123.00	Premier	22½	+½	...	...	8.3
40.10	Presidio	158	...	...	4.2	...
130.00	Ranger	325	+5	...	5.0	...
38,195.30	Royal Dtch Fl	7125	+125	...	4.3	17.7
9,384.00	Schlumberger	3875	-18½	...	2.1	...
38.40	Seafield	58	...	...	...	...
23,801.70	Shell	718	-6	22.8	4.0	22.1
5.42	Sunrise Eng Sv	185	...	...	...	...
14.90	Triton Europe	18	...	...	...	...
14.60	Villers Grp	14½	+1	...	...	...
1,186.70	Woodside	178	+3	...	2.0	...

PAPER, PRINT, ADVTG

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
28.50	AG Holdings	164 †	+8	...	4.0	14.9
89.00	API	418 †	+26	8.2	2.5	∞
1,953.60	Arjo Wiggins	240	+7	...	3.4	38.8
81.00	Abbott Mead	540	...	9.5	2.2	35.4
141.00	Aegis Gp	17½	...	...	...	...
18.80	Aspen Comms▲	145	-5	...	4.2	13.2
1.47	BBB Design▲	18	...	...	...	...
130.90	Bemrose	414 †	+6	...	3.5	19.0
8.66	Birkdale	8½	...	...	...	...
614.10	Bunzl	145	-2	4.0	3.4	21.9
41.20	CIA Gp	352	+5	...	1.6	22.2
34.80	Capital Inds	130	...	...	3.5	12.4
6.49	City of Lon▲	84 †	-1	...	5.7	15.5
24.50	Cropper (James)	304	...	3.2	1.3	29.4
7.54	Delyn Group	89	+1	1.6	2.3	12.0
24.80	Dolphin Pack	105	...	4.5	5.4	25.9
8.88	Dudley Jenkins▲	77	...	...	5.0	17.5
31.40	Elswick	15½	+½	...	2.5	17.1
23.30	Fairway Group▲	75	+3	3.2	5.4	22.1
119.40	Ferguson Intl	363	+14	...	4.3	16.4
18.60	Ferry Pick	137	...	...	5.1	37.0
43.50	Findlax▲	194	+27	...	1.0	25.0
4.09	Finch	11½	+½	...	...	...
12.70	Gibbon Lyons▲	141 †	-8	...	4.6	15.9
54.20	Gold Greenless	206	...	8.4	5.2	18.3
3.44	Goodhead	23	...	0.0	0.3	∞
14.30	Hunterprint	25	+6	...	...	...
8.63	Intereurope	161	-1	...	6.1	11.8
86.80	Jarvis Porter	273	+1	...	2.2	25.5
11.70	Lopex	22	...	...	...	...
12.30	MDM	35	...	...	...	...
115.70	More O'Ferrall	357	+24	13.2	4.6	42.7
50.20	NMC Group	124	+7	2.7	2.8	19.1
13.90	Osborne & Little	230 †	...	...	2.8	25.3
332.40	Portals	513	+13	...	3.6	17.7
5.78	Premier Hlth	2	...	...	...	...
60.30	Quarto	286	+5	...	2.5	17.6
318.50	St Ives Gp	322	+3	...	2.1	21.3
297.10	Saatchi	135	-6	...	...	...
581.10	Sappi	387	-3	...	8.4	7.4
13.40	Serif▲	18 †	-½	...	...	...
18.20	Shandwick	22	-1½	...	...	...
618.40	Smith David	400	+3	...	3.1	21.0
1,396.30	Smurfit (Jeff)	286	+2	...	1.8	6.9
2.06	Somic	103 †	+5	2.5	3.0	42.2
45.10	Stat-Plus	210	...	8.4	5.0	18.7
57.40	Taylor Nelson	26½	...	0.3	1.6	22.0
9.79	VTR▲	125	+17	...	3.6	18.9
478.90	WPP	92	...	...	1.4	3.5
142.70	Wace	182	+13	...	0.7	...
196.20	Waddington (J)	244	+3	...	4.1	18.3
273.50	Watmough	410	+15½	...	1.8	32.1
3.48	Westport▲	3	-½	...	...	...
2.07	Whitney Mck▲	29	...	...	...	...
16.10	Wyndeham	98	+4	...	1.9	20.8

PROPERTY

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
75.90	Allied Lon	109	-1	...	4.0	28.2
25.80	Arcadian	37	+1	...	...	...
21.20	Ascot Hldgs	6	+½	...	...	...
105.20	Asda	134	+2	...	2.0	14.1
63.40	Avonside	146	+8	4.1	3.5	20.4
6,968.20	BCE▲	2275	+12½	...	...	...
288.90	Bilton	658	+2	18.9	3.6	23.8
25.10	Bourne End	73 †	-1	...	1.7	...
340.60	Bradford	237	-2	5.9	3.1	24.0
4.59	Bredero	12½	...	...	...	...
1,308.00	Br Land	435	-3	...	2.1	39.4
544.50	Brixton	235	-14	...	4.5	18.6
157.80	Burford	96½	+7½	...	1.2	...
57.70	Cap & Regnl▲	190	+2	...	0.9	...
6.12	Cardiff Prop	230	...	2.4	1.3	...
116.60	Chesterfield	595	+1	11.5	2.4	42.6
5.55	City Site Ests	36	+1	...	...	...
7.01	Clarke Nickolls	34	...	...	...	...
5.93	Compco	285	...	12.9	6.0	61.8
26.30	Conrad Rbist GS	44	...	...	...	...
237.70	Daejan	1458	+3	...	2.3	18.0
0.84	Dares Estates	9	...	...	...	...
56.80	Debenham Twsn	130	+1	...	2.9	35.3
4.72	De Morgan	10	+2	...	...	...
31.60	Dencora	177	+2	3.0	2.1	...
77.30	Derwent Hldgs	664	...	8.7	1.6	...
40.40	Development Sec	34½	+1	...	...	...
14.40	Dwyer	56 †	+1	...	...	...
24.00	Estates Agency	400	+5	...	2.4	47.5
3.85	Estates Gen	18	+1	...	...	...
141.90	Evans Of Leeds	214 †	+1	...	2.8	18.9
32.60	Five Oaks	33½	+½	...	...	...
5.54	Fletcher King	66	+1	1.0	1.9	43.4
250.50	Frogmore	498	-3	...	4.0	24.0
45.40	Grainger	228	+3	5.2	2.9	∞
692.60	Gr Portland	227	-1	...	4.4	21.7
94.80	Greycoat	18	+1	...	...	...
5,977.00	HK Land	222	+16	...	2.9	29.2
250.10	Hambro Cntyw	76	+2	0.5	0.8	...
1,041.20	Hammerson	415	-1	10.0	3.0	42.0
48.40	Helical Bar	298	...	...	2.1	10.7
35.10	Hemingway	36	...	...	...	...
9.60	Herring Baker	60	...	3.7	7.8	15.1
2.76	Jermyn	138	...	...	...	...
4,007.50	Land Sec	792	-3	23.1	3.7	23.6
260.20	Lon Merch Sec	107	-2	4.0	4.7	16.5
5.00	Lon & Metro	11	...	...	...	...
2,246.80	MEPC	548 †	...	...	4.6	38.6
3.91	McInerney A	6½	...	...	...	...
44.60	McKay Secs	164	+4	3.5	2.7	22.5
3.36	Markheath	2½	...	...	...	...
11.10	Merivale Mre	80	...	...	...	...
17.90	Moorfield Est	53	...	...	...	...
99.00	Mountview	1205	+5	22.0	2.3	12.5
171.80	Muckllow (A&J)	176	+3	...	4.3	27.4
9.66	Olives Prop	50	-3	...	...	...
1.36	Ossory Est	1½	...	...	...	0.4
201.70	PSIT	166	+1	4.1	3.1	32.9
286.50	Peel	359	-1	4.0	1.4	...
7.56	Power Corp	6½	...	...	...	...
7.97	Property Trust	42	+2	...	...	12.0
37.60	Raglan	40	-1	...	...	...
35.10	Regalian	30	+1	...	...	...
17.50	Rowlinson Secs	140 †	...	1.5	1.3	17.5
56.10	St Modwen Prp	48	...	0.9	2.3	36.6
34.00	Savills	92	+2	...	1.4	36.4
132.70	Scot Met	102½	+½	...	1.8	∞
57.40	Shaftesbury	118	+1	...	...	...
1.11	Shield	11½	+½	...	...	6.0
1,073.00	Slough Estates	279	-9	...	3.6	19.5
105.30	Southend Prop	98	+2	...	3.1	...
42.30	Stanhope Prps▲	25½	+½	...	...	...
103.80	Tops Ests	225	...	2.1	1.2	80.0
133.70	Town Centre	132	...	...	3.2	23.6
65.20	Trafford Park	96	-1	...	3.6	22.1
1.34	UK Land	31	-1	...	...	...
18.40	Union Square	9½	...	...	...	...
142.40	Warner	288	...	10.4	4.4	26.8
83.70	Warnford	218	...	7.5	4.4	15.8
2.26	Waterglade	2½	-½	...	...	...
139.60	Wates	90½	+½	...	...	...
6.73	Wood John D▲	82	...	...	...	...

SHOES, LEATHER

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1.77	Automagic▲	31	+2	...	...	...
68.20	Headlam	200	+11	...	1.9	45.1
19.00	Lambert	315	...	13.2	5.3	7.7
13.20	Pittards	61	...	1.5	3.1	17.4
37.50	Strong & Fisher	22	...	1.0	5.7	6.1
43.50	Stylo	227	+7	...	1.7	...
21.90	UK Safety	57	...	...	5.7	1.9

TEXTILES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
148.00	Allied Text	514	+5	12.7	3.1	16.5
6.97	Beckman (A)	57	+1	3.5	7.9	∞
2.63	Bolton Gp	28	...	...	...	...
24.30	Br Mohair	183	+12	8.5	5.8	17.1
2.37	Charnwell▲	38	+2	...	...	...
138.00	Claremont Gs	340	-1	7.5	2.8	21.2
455.50	Courtauld Text	451	-23	13.9	3.9	12.3
4.48	Cupid▲	25	...	...	...	...
212.40	Dawson	136 †	+1	...	7.0	10.4
5.69	Drummond	35	...	...	...	...
9.35	Faupel▲	80	-4	...	7.8	12.1
2.86	Foster (John)	25	+2	...	...	...
5.53	Gaskell	114	...	4.2	4.7	...
38.80	Hicking Pntcst	235 †	+7	...	2.2	16.7
5.13	Jerome (S)	68	...	...	0.4	...
118.50	Lamont	395	+1	12.0	3.8	26.1
96.10	Leeds	506 †	+4	8.5	2.1	∞
8.73	Lister	53	-1	0.1	0.2	...
6.46	Lyles (S)	89	...	...	4.6	...
53.30	Magellan	209	...	1.4	0.8	...
17.00	Parkland	193	+1	...	1.1	...
188.20	Readicut	97	+1½	...	4.4	18.3
2.13	SEET	53	+1	...	...	...
69.50	Sirdar	130	+1	1.9	5.1	9.0
54.30	Stirling Gp	62½	+3½	...	3.8	17.3
28.30	Stoddard	36	...	...	5.2	33.5
17.10	Tomkinsons	275	-3	11.5	5.2	∞
9.27	West Trust	37 †	...	...	9.1	...
24.80	Yorklyde	248	+1	...	2.7	16.3

TOBACCOS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
16,852.00	BAT	547½	+23½	...	4.4	16.4

TRANSPORT

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1,023.00	Assoc Br Ports	545	+14	...	2.0	...
5,346.80	BAA	1048	+28	...	2.0	26.0
4,322.10	Br Airways	454	+10½	...	3.0	20.3
24.70	Clarkson (H)	108	-5	1.7	2.0	...
1,445.00	Eurotunnel Uts	540	+14	...	...	...
18.00	Fisher (James)	73	+6	0.5	0.9	19.6
38.00	IoM Steam	253	-2	...	4.2	13.3
8.99	Jacobs (JI)	39	+3	0.5	1.6	...
15.03	Lon O'Seas Frts	99	-3	...	1.3	18.1
306.00	Mersey Docks	444	-11	...	2.5	30.2
68.80	Natl Express	247	-½	...	3.6	25.5
1,600.60	NFC	231	+9½	...	3.8	17.9
514.70	Ocean Group	334	+6	...	5.4	...
28.60	Ocean Wilson	72	+1	4.0	6.9	13.0
3,940.20	P & O Dfd	660	+19	...	5.8	35.8
108.60	P & O 5½%	163	-4	...	4.2	...
419.80	Powell Duffryn	637	+10	...	4.4	20.2
22.70	Seacon▲	233	+7	...	2.9	14.7
196.40	Stagecoach	158 †	+5	...	3.0	19.2
423.90	TNT	75	-1	...	...	...
357.00	Tibbet & Britn	815	+24	12.6	1.9	31.3
62.00	Tiphook	56	-7	...	...	...
417.30	TDG	284	+14	...	4.2	9.4

WATER

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1,796.70	Anglian Water	607	+12	...	4.4	12.1
59.00	Mid Kent Hdgs	345 †	...	...	3.9	12.7
497.60	Northumbrian	735	-10	...	3.9	8.6
2,215.60	North West	594 †	+6	...	4.6	9.8
2,218.60	Severn Trent	618 †	+4	...	4.4	9.6
1,143.00	Sthrn Water	682	+23	...	4.1	10.8
85.40	Sth Staffs	1525	...	48.5	4.0	10.9
805.70	South West	643	+2	...	4.7	10.6
2,281.40	Thames Water	582	-4	...	4.6	11.4
1,031.70	Welsh Water	715 †	...	...	4.2	7.2
924.00	Wessex Water	738	+34	...	3.8	11.6
1,236.10	Yorkshire W	619 †	+3	...	4.4	10.3

Source: Finstat

▲ USM; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; † Ex rights issue; ‡ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; ∞ Figures or report awaited; ... No significant data.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Stock Outstanding (£million)	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
2,100	Treas 8½% 1994	100[illegible]	-[illegible]	8.48	5.41
550	Treas 14½% 1994	101[illegible]	-[illegible]	14.27	5.32
1,100	Exch 13½% 1994	102[illegible]	-[illegible]	13.15	5.15
1,900	Treas 10% 1994	102[illegible]	-[illegible]	9.79	5.04
1,240	Exch 12½% 1994	104[illegible]	-[illegible]	11.94	5.01
1,000	Treas 9% 1994	103[illegible]	-[illegible]	8.70	5.01
2,350	Treas 12% 1995	107[illegible] †	-[illegible]	11.19	5.00
214	Gas 3% 1990-95	97[illegible]	+[illegible]	3.06	4.62
2,900	Exch 10¼% 1995	107[illegible]	-[illegible]	9.51	5.08
840	Treas 12¾% 1995	113[illegible]	-[illegible]	11.22	5.05
770	Treas 14% 1996	117[illegible] †	-[illegible]	11.95	5.13
1,150	Treas 15¼% 1996	121[illegible]	-[illegible]	12.51	5.19
800	Exch 13¼% 1996	117[illegible]	-[illegible]	11.25	5.21
3,409	Conv 10% 1996	112[illegible]	-[illegible]	8.92	5.37
1,250	Treas 13¼% 1997	121[illegible] †	-[illegible]	10.89	5.48
3,700	Exch 10½% 1997	114[illegible]	-[illegible]	9.20	5.51
3,550	Treas 8¾% 1997	110[illegible]	-[illegible]	7.93	5.57
600	Exch 15% 1997	131[illegible]	-[illegible]	11.40	5.69
3,550	Exch 9¾% 1998	114[illegible] †	-[illegible]	8.51	5.67
6,250	Treas 7¼% 1998	106[illegible]	-[illegible]	6.83	5.61
1,600	Treas 7¼% B 1998	106	-[illegible]	6.84	5.62
1,200	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	102	-[illegible]	6.62	5.20
970	Treas 14% 1998-01	131[illegible]	-[illegible]	10.68	5.87
905	Treas 15½% 1998	140[illegible]	-[illegible]	11.07	5.74
3,909	Exch 12% 1998	125[illegible]	-[illegible]	9.54	5.85
1,900	Treas 9½% 1999	115[illegible] †	-[illegible]	8.20	5.81

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Stock Outstanding (£million)	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
3,900	Treas 6% 1999	101[illegible]	+[illegible]	6.08	5.75
3,050	Exch 12¼% 1999	128[illegible]	-[illegible]	9.57	5.94
1,252	Treas 10½% 1999	121[illegible]	-[illegible]	8.67	5.86
1,798	Conv 10¼% 1999	121[illegible]	-[illegible]	8.46	5.92
5,358	Conv 9% 2000	115[illegible]	-[illegible]	7.77	5.86
3,171	Treas 13% 2000	136[illegible] †	-[illegible]	9.52	6.14
3,250	Treas 7% 2001	105[illegible]	-[illegible]	6.69	6.03
4,406	Treas 10% 2001	121[illegible]	...	8.22	6.18
6,527	Treas 9¾% 2002	122[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.94	6.29
7,600	Treas 8% 2003	112[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.08	6.16
2,503	Treas 10% 2003	126[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.91	6.30
1,620	Treas 11¾% 2001-04	129[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.91	6.39
543	Fund 3½% 1999-04	85[illegible]	+[illegible]	4.09	5.30
3,250	Treas 6¾% 2004	104[illegible]	+[illegible]	6.46	6.16
3,412	Conv 9½% 2004	124[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.62	6.30
4,842	Conv 9½% 2005	125[illegible]	...	7.60	6.35
2,200	Treas 12½% 2003-05	143[illegible]	+[illegible]	8.74	6.52
2,000	Treas 8% 2002-06	111[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.20	6.33
3,900	Treas 7¾% 2006	111[illegible]	+[illegible]	6.97	6.35
3,150	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	139[illegible] †	+[illegible]	8.67	6.49
5,497	Treas 8½% 2007	118[illegible] †	+[illegible]	7.17	6.41
1,250	Treas 13½% 2004-08	150[illegible]	-[illegible]	8.94	6.57
5,321	Treas 9% 2008	124[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.26	6.44

LONGS (over 15 years)

Stock Outstanding (£million)	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
3,100	Treas 8% 2009	115[illegible]	+[illegible]	6.95	6.46
4,273	Conv 9% 2011	126 †	+[illegible]	7.14	6.49
5,150	Treas 9% 2012	128[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.10	6.48
1,000	Treas 5½% 2008-12	93[illegible]	-[illegible]	5.90	6.11
800	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	114[illegible] †	+[illegible]	6.79	6.41
4,950	Treas 8% 2013	116[illegible]	+[illegible]	6.84	6.46
1,000	Exch 12% 2013-17	158[illegible]	+[illegible]	7.58	6.66
6,950	Treas 8¾% 2017	127[illegible]	+[illegible]	6.87	6.47

UNDATED

Stock Outstanding (£million)	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
1,909	War Ln 3½%	57[illegible]	+[illegible]	6.49	...
475	Treas 2½%	36[illegible]	+[illegible]	6.76	...

INDEX-LINKED

Stock Outstanding (£million)	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
500	Treas IL 2% 1994	136[illegible]	-[illegible]	...	...
1,200	Treas IL 2% 1996	203[illegible]	...	0.90	1.87
800	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	113[illegible]	+[illegible]	1.19	1.86
1,350	Treas IL 2½% 2001	175[illegible]	+[illegible]	2.14	2.53
1,050	Treas IL 2½% 2003	172[illegible]	+[illegible]	2.37	2.69
600	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	117[illegible]	+[illegible]	2.39	2.69
1,550	Treas IL 2% 2006	183[illegible] †	-[illegible]	2.47	2.71
1,550	Treas IL 2½% 2009	167[illegible]	+[illegible]	2.65	2.86
1,800	Treas IL 2½% 2011	174[illegible]	+[illegible]	2.71	2.90
2,150	Treas IL 2½% 2013	145	+[illegible]	2.74	2.91
2,400	Treas IL 2½% 2016	155[illegible]	+[illegible]	2.80	2.96
2,400	Treas IL 2½% 2020	151[illegible]	+[illegible]	2.85	2.90
1,900	Treas IL 2½% 2024	127[illegible] †	+[illegible]	2.85	2.97

هكذا من الأصل

Fimbra acts on loophole in pension transfers

By Tony Hetherington

INVESTIGATORS from the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Organisation (Fimbra) have uncovered a serious loophole in the system that allows members of the public to transfer funds from one pension company to another.

The loophole creates an opportunity for funds to be misappropriated in such a way that investors may be unaware of any problem until they retire and find a shortfall in their pension. For this reason, the scale of the problem is unknown, and victims may emerge many years from now.

According to investigators, a financial intermediary can divert funds for his or her own purposes by persuading clients to switch pension savings from one company to another. The surrender proceeds are sent to the intermediary by the first pension company, in the form of a cheque made out to the second pension company.

The intermediary can then attach the cheque to an application which has been prepared in a false name, requesting that the money be invested in unit trusts or a single premium life policy, rather than a pension plan. A week or so later, the intermediary writes to the company, using the same false name, and says there has been a chanage of mind. The money is then refunded as a cheque that bears the false name, under which identity the intermediary has opened a bank account.

To allay any suspicion, the intermediary does genuinely arrange a new pension plan for the client so that contributions can be made in the years ahead. The client may not be aware until retirement that the plan does not contain the lump sum withdrawn from the earlier scheme.

The loophole came to light when Leslin Financial Services, a firm of financial advisers in Leeds, persuaded two clients to transfer their pension savings to Allied Dunbar. Cheques totalling £93,000 were sent to Leslin by the original pension companies, and forwarded to Allied Dunbar with applications for single premium bonds in what is believed to be a false name. A short time later, Allied Dunbar was asked to cancel the investments and return the money to the supposed applicant. Allied Dunbar's refund cheque was then paid into an account at the Yorkshire Bank.

According to an investigator: "The bank alerted Allied Dunbar because the account had been tiny before suddenly receiving this huge sum. Allied Dunbar then contacted the original life companies, which disclosed that the cheques it had received via Leslin represented pension money belonging to two entirely different people."

Allied Dunbar then notified both Fimbra and the police, whose enquiries into the matter are continuing. All the money was recovered. Leslin Financial Services was suspended by Fimbra and is no longer permitted to offer advice or market investments.

In a similar incident, Towry Law, the financial adviser, which is a quoted company and the largest Fimbra member, uncovered a redirection of funds belonging to one of its clients. John Bridel, compliance director, said: "We wrote to all the clients of the office concerned and asked them to check their investments. The individual concerned was immediately dismissed and Fimbra was informed."

The client was fully compensated, but an internal investigation has uncovered more cases, in which the clients concerned are unaware their funds have gone astray. Towry Law is about to write to these clients, informing them of their loss and assuring them of compensation.

Fimbra has now approached Lautro, the life assurance and unit trust regulator, in a bid to close the loophole which allows pension refunds to be diverted. Alan Brener, head of central enforcement at Lautro, said: "This has been drawn to our attention quite recently by Fimbra. We shall issue guidance to members, probably along the lines of making certain that cheques go direct to the investor, and only in exceptional circumstances to the intermediary."

Dealers amid cascading order papers celebrate the year-end closure of the South Korean stock market

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Germany confident its recession is over

GÜNTER Rexrodt, the German Economics Minister, reaffirmed his forecast that west German gross domestic product would grow by between 0.5 per cent and 1 per cent in 1994 and said it was becoming clear that the recession was over. In an end-of-year statement he said he saw a good chance that the process of recovery would continue and grow stronger during 1994. Herr Rexrodt said: "At the end of the year, it is becoming clearer that the German economy has come out of its trough."

He said unemployment would continue to increase next year even after the end of the recession. Herr Rexrodt added: "Against this background, the government's economic policy will be fully concentrated on the task of stopping job losses and supporting the creation of new employment possibilities." He also repeated his previous forecast that east German GDP would grow by 7.5 per cent in 1994 after expected growth of 6.5 per cent in 1993.

Council fights bank writ

THE west London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham said yesterday it would "vigourously contest" a writ issued against it by Credit Commercial de France reclaiming an unspecified sum paid to the council for swap operations in the 1980s. However, the council said it was "willing to settle reasonable claims for restitution". The French bank on Monday accused the borough of fraud concerning its right to conduct swap operations. In 1991, the House of Lords said local councils were not empowered to carry out such operations and therefore were not liable for losses.

Airport costs halved

MALAYSIA'S new airport will cost about $3.1 billion, less than half the $7.7 billion initially projected, Anwar Ibrahim, the Finance Minister, said yesterday. The revised estimate was based on lower-than-expected contract packages offered by the builders. Mr Anwar said that he hoped the airport at Subang, 45 miles from Kuala Lumpur, would be ready for the 1998 Commonwealth Games. An Anglo-Japanese consortium is designing and building the airport. The consortium includes General Electric, Trafalgar House and Balfour Beatty, along with Marubeni and Mitsui and Co.

Swiss Mothercare sold

DENNER, the Swiss retail chain, has bought Mothercare AG Schweiz and said it will dissolve its franchise link to the British group, owned by Storehouse. A Denner statement said the 15 Mothercare stores in Switzerland, which have annual sales of 16 million francs, will be renamed Babycare. Denner bought Mothercare on behalf of its own unit, Franz Carl Weber AG. Fritz Duebendorfer, the past owner and chief executive of Mothercare, will become a new director of Franz Carl Weber from January 1 and run Babycare together with Franz Carl Weber.

Airline rescue plan

ONE of America's richest fund managers has proposed a plan to bail out America West Airlines, which has been under bankruptcy court protection for almost two-and-a-half years. Michael Steinhardt, a New York money manager, is proposing to put in $250 million, the equivalent of his salary last year, to rescue the airline. Only George Soros was paid more than Mr Steinhardt last year. His plan emerged as favourite among five after the Pritzker family, owners of the Hyatt Hotel chain and Wertheim Schroder, the New York investment bank, abandoned a $150 million rescue attempt.

Strong yen reduces Japan's surplus

From Reuter in Tokyo

JAPAN'S balance of payments surplus fell in November because of the strong yen, the first year-on-year decline in six months. The surplus narrowed to $8.21 billion — without adjustment for seasonal factors — from $10.34 billion a year earlier, the Finance Ministry said yesterday.

Economists said this could signal the end of the long rise in the politically sensitive surplus. They said it was likely to continue shrinking.

The Management and Coordination Agency said yesterday that unemployment hit its highest level for more than six years in November, jumping to 2.8 per cent from 2.3 per cent a year earlier. Inflation appeared dormant. Consumer prices for November rose 0.9 per cent from a year earlier but fell 0.6 per cent month-on-month. Prices remained stable throughout the year partly because of the rise of the yen, an agency official said.

The trade surplus, which excludes receipts from services such as shipping, banking and tourism, shrank to $9.05 billion last month from $9.57 billion a year earlier and $12.43 billion in October, the Finance Ministry said. "In terms of yen and export volume, Japan's surplus has been shrinking for some months and the dollar figures are starting to reflect this decline," said Seiji Nagano, a Yasuda Trust and Banking economist.

Economists said the dwindling surplus had not previously been apparent in the dollar figures because the strong yen inflated the dollar value of Japanese exports. But now the yen's rise was putting enough pressure on Japan's export volume to cut the surplus in dollar terms. A ministry official said it was too soon to say that the dollar-based current account surplus was definitely on a downtrend.

Japanese products lost competitiveness in the global market as the yen rose to 108.82 to the dollar by November 31, compared with 124.75 a year earlier. The strong yen also boosted imports by making them cheaper.

The current account surplus with the United States totalled $22.74 billion in the January to June 1993 period, up from $19.65 billion a year earlier. The surplus with the European Community was $18.93 billion in the same period, compared with $21.34 billion.

Foreign funds help push Hang Seng to record close

WORLD MARKETS

Hong Kong — The stock market soared again yesterday in its biggest one-day jump as investors ignored a decision by the Chinese government to disband all of Hong Kong's elected institutions when it takes over the British colony in 1997.

The Hang Seng index rocketed 530.38 points to close at a record 11,570.22. It reached an intra-day high of 11,689.94, but this was whittled back by late profit-taking. The Hang Seng's previous biggest-one-day rise was 394.40, reached on December 16.

Alex Tang, an analyst with Yamaichi International, said: "Foreign funds appear to have decided to come into the market ahead of 1994."

On Monday, the Chinese government said that Hong Kong's legislative council and lower level muncipal councils and district boards should be disbanded by June 30, 1997, the last day of British rule.

The announcement kills chances of achieving the so-called "through train", under which legislators and local councillors would be allowed to serve their full elected terms past the handover. A broker at a European brokerage said: "Who cares." He added that no one had expected a through train for all legislators, and this latest move by the Chinese government did not present a fundamentally new worry.

Simon Lam, an analyst with Mansion House Securities, said: "It's come to the point that this is the worst state of Sino-British relations. We know what Britain and China will do, so the uncertainty is gone, and people can concentrate on economics." Brokers said the market was powered by foreign funds continuing to pour in, as they have done for the past three months, encouraged by record highs in stock markets worldwide over the long weekend. The Hong Kong market was closed on Monday.

Antony Mak, of Vickers Ballas, said: "I think 12,000 is quite imminent." Selling pressure was light, as investors who wanted to take profits had already done so, he said.

Michael Ng, of Sassoon Securities, said investors might be pushing to end the year on a record close, even though there was no need for window-dressing after the hefty gains already made.

The reason for Tuesday's rise was hard to fathom, with no fresh domestic factors on hand, analysts said. Mr Lam said that the risk of a correction was rising with prices, and any bad news, if of a type to catch the attention of the market, could drive prices down sharply. But he added that he did not expect a correction until mid-January.

Mr Tang, of Yamaichi, said the Hang Seng was up more than 100 per cent this year, but Hong Kong companies still looked solid and sustained profit-taking was not likely until February or March.

He added: "Quite a few analysts, including ourselves, thought that by the first quarter we were going to see 12,000, but probably we're going to see it very soon.

"We analysts may have to revise our forecasts upward for 1994. The figures I hear now are around 14,000, which is still in line with projected corporate earnings." *(Reuter)*

Late rally lifts Nikkei

Tokyo — Shares ended higher after a late afternoon rally. Brokers said that sentiment was aided by hopes that officials would offer economic stimulus plans, such as a big income tax cut, and Bank of Japan support for banks to write-off problem loans.

The Nikkei average ended up 311.33 points at 17,131.21. An estimated 200 million shares were traded. Buying by investment trusts and a strong futures market helped to lift prices, with few sellers around, brokers said. On Monday, the Nikkei 300 ended down 4.22 points at 260.74.

The Japan Renewal Party, a leading partner in the ruling coalition, has proposed that the Bank of Japan make loans at the discount rate to help small financial institutions liquidate non-performing loans. But Masayoshi Takemura, Chief Cabinet Secretary, said it was too early to comment on such a proposal. *(Reuter)*

Paramount goodwill carries long-term bill

From Philip Robinson in New York

POTENTIAL bidders for Paramount Communications would take between 20 and 40 years to write off the amount they are paying for the good name of the Hollywood studio.

At that rate, Barry Diller, chairman of QVC Network, could be 91 years old before the final payment is written off, and Sumner Redstone, now 70, head of Viacom, the rival bidder, would be 110.

Diller: goodwill game

The arithmetics of Wall Street analysts suggests that whichever of the cable companies wins the $10 billion takeover fight, due to close on January 7, they will have to charge $145 million against Paramount's profits in each of the next 40 years, or $290 million if the goodwill cost is written off in half the time.

Their sums are based on a book value for the studio of $4 billion, which means almost $6 billion of the purchase price is being paid for the name.

Analysts expect shares of the victorious company to be valued at between $50 and $60 a share. Paramount shares fell 62.5 cents to $77.5 yesterday. QVC lost $1.25 to $38.25, and are down 45 per cent this year.

WALL STREET

Dow on a lower note in early trading

New York — Wall Street shares turned mixed in early trading. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 5.59 points at 3,787.34. Advancing issues led declining shares by about nine to eight. US treasuries were steady above their lows, with the long bond down $^{8}/_{32}$ to yield 6.25 per cent. Ricky Harrington, a technical analyst with Interstate/Johnson Lane, said: "With the Dow and other indexes at all-time highs, money managers want to show fully invested positions at year-end. This is part of a normal year-end rally on thin volume. Not many money managers are working this week." Some over-the-counter high-technology shares pushed ahead and semiconductors were strong after Goldman Sachs upgraded Intel to its recommended purchase list from a trading buy. Mr Harrington said: "It is interesting that the OTC market is not better than it is. These stocks are so heavily weighted in that index that I would think it would be showing a stronger performance."

☐ **Singapore** — Bulls continued to swamp the stock market, pushing the Straits Times industrial index to a new closing high of 2,392.37 in spite of significant profit-taking after Monday's trading, which also set a record. Intra-day losses were erased when selling was absorbed by investors still hopeful of making gains before the new year, brokers said. The index was up 13.94 points from Monday's closing high, but off yesterday's intra-day all-time high of 2,398.53. *(Reuter)*

	Dec 28 midday	Dec 27 close
AMP Inc	63	63
AMR Corp	67	67
Abbott Labs	29	30
Aetna Life	59	58
Ahmanson (HF)	19	19
Air Prod & Chem	45	46
Albertson's	27	28
Alcan Aluminum	21	21
Alco Standard	53	53
Allied Signal	79	79
Alum Co of Am	68	68
Amax Gold Inc	6	6
Amerada Hess	46	45
Amer Brands	33	33
Amer Cyanamid	50	51
Amer El Power	37	37
Amer Express	31	31
Amer Genl Corp	28	27
Amer Home Pr	65	64
Amer Intl	88	88
Amer Stores	43	44
Amer T & T	54	54
Ameritech	79	79
Amoco	53	54
Anheuser-Busch	49	49
Apple Computer	29	28
Archer Daniels	23	23
Arkla	8	7
Armco	6	6
Armstrng Wrld	54	53
Asarco	22	22
Ashland Oil	34	34
Atl Richfield	106	105
Auto Data Pro	56	56
Avery Dennison	29	29
Avon Products	48	48
Baker Hughes	19	19
Baltim Gas & El	26	26
Banc One	39	39
BankAmerica	46	46
Bank of NY	57	56
Bankers Tr NY	81	80
Barnett Banks	41	41
Bausch & Lomb	50	50
Baxter Intl	23	23
Bectn Dicknsn	36	36
Bell Atlantic	60	61
BellSouth	58	58
Black & Decker	20	20
Block (H&R)	40	40
Boeing	43	44
Boise Cascade	24	24
Borden Inc	16	16
Bristol Myrs Sq	59	59
Browning Ferris	25	26
Burlington Nthn	57	57
CBS	292	294
CNA Financial	79	79
CPC Intl	47	47
CSX	85	85
Campbell Soup	42	42
Can Pacific	15	15
Cptl Cities ABC	627	629
Cptl Holdings	37	37
Carolina Pwr	31	31
Caterpillar	89	90
Central & SW	32	31
Champion Intl	32	32
Chase Manhat	35	34
Chemical Bk	41	41
Chevron Corp	88	88
Chrysler	54	53
Chubb Corp	77	77
Cigna Corp	63	63
Citicorp	37	37
Clorox	54	54
Coastal Corp	27	27
Coca Cola	44	44
Colgate-Palmolive	61	60
Columbia Gas	22	22
Commonw Ed	29	29
Compaq Comp	74	73
Comp Ass Int	40	40
Conagra	26	26
Cons Edison	33	33
Cons Nat Gas	45	45
Cons Rail	66	66
Cooper Inds	48	48
Corning Inc	27	27
Crown Cork	40	41
Dana Corp	58	58
Dayton Hudson	66	66
Deere	73	73
Delta Air Lines	55	55
Deluxe Corp	35	35
Detroit Edison	30	30
Digital Equip	34	35
Dillard Dept St	36	35
Disney (Walt)	44	44
Dominion Res	45	45
Donelley (RR)	30	31
Dover Corp	60	60
Dow Chemical	56	56
Dow Jones	36	36
Dresser	20	20
Duke Power	44	44
Dun & Bradstreet	62	62
Du Pont	49	49
Eastman Kodak	55	56
Eaton Corp	52	52

	Dec 28 midday	Dec 27 close
Emerson Elec	60	59
Engelhard Corp	24	24
Enron Corp	29	29
Entergy Corp	36	36
Ethyl Corp	17	17
Exxon	64	64
FMC Corp	47	47
FPL Group	39	39
Federal Express	70	70
Fed Nat Mtge	79	79
First Chicago	43	43
First Interstate	64	64
First Union Rlty	10	10
Fleet Finl Grp	34	34
Fluor Corp	39	40
Ford Motor	65	64
GTE Corp	35	35
Gannett	57	57
Gap Inc Del	41	41
Gen Dynamics	93	94
Gen Electric	106	106
Gen Mills	60	61
Gen Motors	56	56
Gen Reinsurance	107	107
Gen Signal	34	34
Genuine Parts	37	37
Georgia Pac	69	69
Gillette	59	60
Glaxo ADR	21	21
Goodrich (BF)	40	41
Goodyear Tire	45	45
Grace (W&R)	40	40
Grt Atl Pac Tea	28	28
Great Wstn Fin	18	18
Halliburton	31	31
Harcourt General	34	34
Heinz (HJ)	36	36
Hercules	112	112
Hershey Foods	49	49
Hewlett Packard	77	77
Hilton Hotels	57	57
Home Depot	40	39
Homestake Mng	21	21
Honeywell	33	33
Household Intl	32	32
Houston Inds	48	47
Humana	17	17
ITT Corp	93	92
Illinois Tool	38	38
INCO	26	26
Ingersoll Rand	38	38
Inland Steel	33	33
Intel Corp	64	62
IBM	59	59
Intl Flav & Fr	112	112
Intl Paper	67	68
James River Va	19	19
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	44	44
K Mart	21	21
Kellogg	58	59
Kerr-McGee	45	45
Kimberly-Clark	51	51
Knight-Ridder	59	59
Lilly (Eli)	59	59
Limited Inc	16	16
LIN Brdcsng	110	111
Lincoln Nat	42	43
Litton	63	63
Liz Claiborne	21	20
Lockheed Corp	68	68
Louisiana Pac	40	40
MCI Commun	25	25
Marriott Int	28	28
Marsh & McLen	82	81
Masco Corp	37	37
May Dept St	38	39
Maytag Corp	18	18
McCaw Cellular	51	51
McDonalds	56	56
McDonnell D	108	107
McGraw Hill	67	67
Mead Corp	45	44
Medtronic	84	83
Mellon Bk	53	53
Melville Corp	40	40
Merck Inc	35	35
Merrill Lynch	44	45
Minnesota Mine	108	109
Mobil Corp	78	78
Monsanto	74	74
Morgan (JP)	71	71
Motorola Inc	92	91
Natl Medical	14	13
Natl Semi	15	16
Natl Service Ind	25	24
Navistar Int	22	22
NBD Bancorp	30	30
NY Times A	27	26
Newmont Mng	56	56
Ntng Mohawk	21	20
Nike B	45	45
NL Industries	5	5
Nordstrom	33	33
Norfolk Sthrn	71	72
Nthn State Pwr	44	44
Norwest Corp	25	25
Nynex Corp	41	40
Occidental Pet	17	17
Ohio Edison	23	23
Oracle Systems	38	39

	Dec 28 midday	Dec 27 close
Oryx Energy Co	17	17
Owens Corning	43	42
PNC Financial	29	29
PPG Industries	75	75
Paccar Inc	61	62
Pacificorp	19	19
Pac Enterprises	25	25
Pac Gas & Elec	35	35
Pac Telesis	55	55
Pall Corp	18	18
Panhandle East	23	22
Paramnt Comm	77	78
Parker Hannifin	37	37
Penney (JC)	54	54
Pennzoil	55	54
Pepsico	41	41
Pfizer	68	68
Phelps Dodge	48	49
Philadel Elec	30	30
Philip Morris	55	55
Phillips Pet	29	29
Pitney Bowes	41	41
Polaroid	33	33
PriceCostco	19	19
Primerica	39	40
Procter & Gmbl	58	58
Pub Serv E & G	32	32
Quaker Oats	70	70
Ralston Purina	37	37
Raychem Corp	36	36
Raytheon	66	67
Reebok Intl	29	29
Reynolds Metals	45	45
Roadway Srvcs	61	62
Rockwell Intl	37	37
Rohm & Haas	56	56
Royal Dutch	106	108
Rubbermaid	35	35
Safeco Corp	54	54
St Paul's Cos	90	89
Salomon Inc	46	47
Santa Fe Pac	21	21
Sara Lee Corp	25	25
Seecorp	21	21
Schering Plough	67	67
Schlumberger	56	58
Scott Paper	39	39
Seagram	26	26
Sears Roebuck	51	52
Shell Trans	65	65
Sherwin Wlms	34	35
Skyline Corp	18	18
Snap-On-Tools	37	37
Southern Co	45	44
Sthwestern Bell	44	44
Sprint Corp	33	32
Stanley Works	42	42
Sun Company	30	29
Suntrust	45	45
Supervalu	36	36
Syntex Corp	15	15
Sysco Corp	29	29
TRW Inc	70	69
Tandem Comp	10	10
Tandy Corp	49	49
Telecom Corp	2	2
Teledyne	26	26
Temple Inland	49	49
Tenneco	52	52
Texaco	64	64
Texas Instr	63	62
Texas Utilities	44	44
Textron	57	57
Time Warner	44	44
Times-Mirror	34	34
Timken	34	34
Torchmark	44	44
Toys R Us	41	41
Transamerica	58	58
Travelers Corp	31	32
Tribune	60	60
Tyco Labs	49	49
UAL Corp	147	147
UST Inc	29	29
USX Marathon	16	16
Unilever NV	117	118
Union Camp	48	48
Union Carbide	22	22
Union Pacific	62	62
Unisys Corp	12	12
USAIR Group	13	12
USF&G Corp	13	13
US Life	38	37
US West	46	46
United Tech	62	62
Unocal Corp	27	27
Upjohn	30	30
VF Corp	44	44
WMX Tech	26	26
Wal-Mart Stores	26	25
Warner-Lambert	65	67
Wells Fargo	132	133
Westinghouse El	14	14
Weyerhaeuser	45	45
Whirlpool	66	66
Whitman	16	16
Winn Dixie	53	54
Woolworth	24	24
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	45	45
Xerox	88	89

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 32

NITHER
(b) To bring or thrust down, to bring low, abase, humble, oppress, straiten, etc., also in OE to condemn, from the OE *nitherian*: "We're obliged to nither! Our spacious sauls' immense desires."

PENNONCEL
(a) A small pennon borne upon a helmet or lance, a *pencel*, a pennon or pennant of a ship, from the Italian *pennoncello* a little plume or bunch of feathers; Scott, *Chivalry*, 1814: "Whom they were entitled to muster under a pennoncel or small triangular streamer somewhat like the naval pennant of the present day."

DERMESTES
(b) A genus of beetles (the type of the family *Dermestidae*), the larvae of which are very destructive to leather and other animal substances, from the Greek *derma* skin + *esthiein* to eat: "When touched, these insects counterfeit death; but they do not contract their legs, in the manner of the Dermestes, and some other Beetles."

EMBAT
(c) A northerly wind that blows in Egypt, from the Turkish adaptation of the Persian *embād*; Mackenzie, *Philological Transactions*, 1763: "The plague at Cairo begins to cease, when the Embats or Etesian winds begin to blow."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rxa4! Qxa4 2 Qb8+ Kd7 3 Qc7+ Ke8 4 Qe7 mate

Economic growth may halt yield fall

GILT-EDGED

This year will be remembered for a dramatic fall in real (inflation-adjusted) bond yields, and a massive diversification of US savings into European — not least UK — bonds. About half the fall in nominal yields reflects lower real yields.

For real yields to fall, the supply of savings has to shift relative to demand for finance. Hence, if demand for finance has not changed significantly, the conclusion is that most of the fall has been caused by a change in savings flows. Most of the saving appears to have been done not by households but by companies, which have reacted to sharper competition by cutting costs, retaining earnings and investing less. If this does not change, real yields have further to fall. Historical American and UK data indicate that the long-term average real return on government bonds has been less than 3 per cent, or even less than 2 per cent, depending on the method of calculation.

Germany, however, which has not suffered as much from inflation volatility, may provide a better guide: its long-term average real bond yield is just over 4 per cent. This indicates that lower yield levels may prove unsustainable.

In 1994, global demand for finance could pick up as recovery gathers momentum during the second half. Hence, a turning-point in the real interest-rate cycle would constrain progress in the gilts market.

As for diversification of US funds, overseas bonds and equities worth about $120 billion have been purchased this year. Almost half of the purchases have come through the UK, and almost three quarters of those have been of bonds.

Not all this money went into sterling bonds. US investors bought German bonds in the UK market. But the bias was towards bonds rather than equities.

It is not hard to see why European bonds were attractive. A year ago, the perceived real bond yield in the US was about 3.7 per cent, compared with 5.2 per cent in the UK, 5.4 per cent in France and 7.6 per cent in Italy. From a dollar perspective, the high real yield differential made hedging costs worth paying.

The situation now is different. The dollar is, if anything, likely to appreciate and relative hedging costs make European bond exposure for US investors less attractive. This may favour equities. Diversification will probably continue, but on a smaller scale: nor will sterling bonds be particularly favoured.

The attraction of gilts for domestic clients rests heavily on the idea that real yields can fall further. The betting is that they will, at least during the early months of the new year. But if economic growth is faster, and demand for finance more pronounced than expected, further real yield reduction will be limited.

MICHAEL HUGHES
Barclays de Zoete Wedd

Hunt leads from the front in battle to win more jobs

Philip Bassett says Employment Secretary David Hunt has taken a robust approach to one of the most difficult jobs in government

Hastily taped to the third-floor wall opposite the lift inside the Department of Employment's London headquarters is a hand-written notice saying: "Fundamental Review Meeting, this way".

Which way the Government will go in its back-to-basics review of its operations — now, after social benefits, to turn its searchlight on employment measures, including spending on unemployment help programmes, training and job schemes — is likely to be decisive not just in terms of the Conservatives' electoral fortunes but also in terms of establishing a sustained economic recovery.

A few floors up from where the Employment Department's fundamental review group is gathering, David Hunt, the Secretary of State for Employment, is unfazed by the what-do-we-do-ANY-of-this-for critique of the review.

Rejecting the idea that with unemployment still high, though falling, a review in the jobs area is in any way inappropriate, he says: "I welcome the opportunity. There are no specific guidelines before we start. We want to examine all the areas of our work. I hope that the review will show this is a value-for-money department."

What will be difficult for the review is fitting radical critiques of the Government's employment operations and what Mr Hunt describes as a highly active current United Kingdom labour market with "tremendous turnover" of people going on within it.

In an interview with *The Times* ranging across the scope of his department's work, Mr Hunt is characteristically positive — especially about the present state of the labour market in the United Kingdom, and particularly of unemployment.

Unusually for someone in his seat, Mr Hunt was brave enough when he started the job to declare that unemployment was too high and he wanted to see it come down permanently.

Most employment secretaries have been rightly chary of making such pronouncements, but whether by luck or judgment, unemployment has come down while Mr Hunt has been at the Department of Employment — and he's still saying it.

"Unemployment *is* falling," he says. "At the start of 1993 most commentators were predicting a rise in unemployment through 3 million up to 4 million. 3.5 million was generally expected."

Instead, he says, the year is ending with more jobs and almost 180,000 fewer people out of work.

When asked whether he was surprised by the scale of the fall in unemployment, he cannot answer in words, concerned lest he should be seen to be complacent about the jobless downturn — but he manages to nod agreement.

He is careful to give warning though, that although he believes the downward trend is now clear, there could well still be months to come in which the figures could blip up again. Unemployment, even when falling, is still a politically-sensitive issue.

Though unemployment inevitably attracts the attention when the labour market is examined, Mr Hunt is keen to emphasise the fluidity and flexibility of the whole of the employment field, not just those out of work, cataloguing new jobs created, the numbers moving back into work, Britain's better record against many of its European Union partners.

He cites small and medium-sized enterprises as the areas where job activity is now genuinely under way. But even with such claimed labour market activity, Mr Hunt is keen to get the latest of his department's traditional products — a long string of job and training schemes — off the Budget drawing board where they were announced by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and into practice.

Mr Hunt's clear favourite, and a notion he has championed for some time, is the Government's new apprenticeship proposals, under which employers and trainees will reach individual training compacts using Government-funded training credits to set in place work-based training programmes in both traditional and non-traditional areas for apprentice work.

Revelling in the "positive reactions" the apprenticeship idea has engendered, he denies that it is little more than a repackaging of current measures, a reshuffling of the pack, though he accepts that "apprenticeship" is a "significant word with employers and young people and their parents" — a great deal more significant, certainly, than NVQ Level 3, about which few, understandably, have a clue.

Significantly, he acknowledges too that one of the principal reasons why the word "apprenticeship" has such resonance, is that it is directly linked in people's minds with a job — that one traditionally led to the other.

"I wouldn't disagree with that," Mr Hunt says, "and that is why I want to see a specific apprenticeship contract. "There is a gap — a skills gap, and there are going to be jobs available, and we have to move to fill that gap." The reaction to the Budget's other jobs measure — the JobSeeker's Allowance, which will cut non-means tested unemployment benefit from 12 to six months — was unsurprisingly less warm than the response to apprenticeships.

Mr Hunt accepts there was an "initial misunderstanding" that the new scheme was to come in immediately, rather than its planned introduction date of spring 1996, but claims that when the clarity of the new scheme is recognised, its value will become apparent.

He rejects the argument that employees' already-paid national insurance contributions entitle them to the benefit as it now stands, arguing in return that people now accept that such contributions are not like bank deposits for themselves in the future, but are there to fund current benefit spending — though he accepts that the need to reduce public expenditure was the primary motivation behind the JobSeeker's Allowance. He denies too that the scheme itself will have any significant impact on the monthly unemployment figures.

Mr Hunt starts 1994 rather buoyed up by the less overtly regulatory stance on jobs signalled by the European Commission in its recent White Paper, and believes that its tone both markedly reflected the United Kingdom's preference for a more flexible, less regulated labour market and that the forthcoming EC Green Paper on future European employment law from Padraig Flynn, the Social Affairs commissioner will mark a similar shift away from the firmly regulatory approach.

He is hopeful, too, that the G7 summit on unemployment called for by President Clinton and now set for mid-March, to which the Tory left triumverate of Mr Clarke, Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, and himself, the heads of the three key economic ministries, will be going, will strike a similar tone.

"The particular issues we want to see addressed are: 1) identifying and then abolishing regulations which harm employment, 2) reducing the costs of employment and 3) encouraging incentives to work such as flexible working hours and the improvement of skills."

He denies that the UK is out of step not just with the EC but with the more regulatory-minded US under Robert Reich, its Labor Secretary. "We will be wanting to talk to Reich and his colleagues to find out as much information as we can about where and how their new jobs have come from."

In any case, he says, any emphasis in the United States on greater regulation of the labour market starts from a greatly lower regulatory base than in the United Kingdom. Any currently-projected moves to greater regulation in the United States will still not pull America up to the United Kingdom's regulatory level — though he explicitly denies having as even a long-term objective a completely-deregulated labour market here.

Unusually, he accepts some of the arguments that the more flexible labour market he does want to see has a downside, and that even with unemployment falling, people are still fearful about their jobs. "People are concerned about job security, but that is to be expected as we emerge from recession," he says.

But with eight monthly unemployment drops out of the last 12 under his belt, he remains confident about the future.

He predicts: "1994 will see fewer people unemployed, and more people in work." If that is anything like right, then it will be a good year for any employment secretary — and Mr Hunt will ensure he will be no exception.

ROBIN MAYES

David Hunt wants to fight the red tape of employment regulations

He was brave enough when he started to declare that unemployment was too high and he wanted it to come down permanently

TEMPUS

Choosing shares that fly in face of fashion

Investing in shares is always damning, but never more so when the market stands at a record high and many share prices are anticipating a recovery in corporate profits two or even three years away.

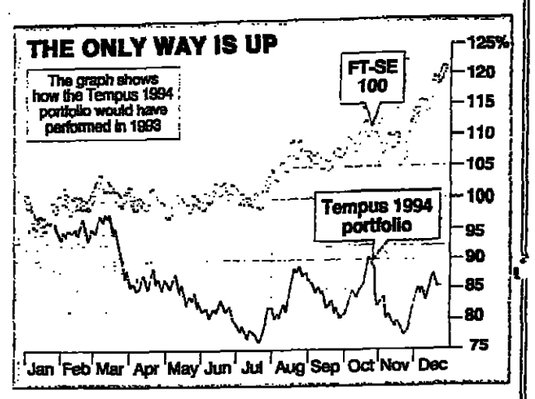
Nevertheless, the market is ending 1993 with no sign of running out of steam. Strong institutional cashflow is creating a shortage of shares — since there are few sellers — and squeezing prices higher.

No matter how high the market rises, there are always people in the City predicting it has further to go. Goldman Sachs now claims "fair value" for the FT-SE 100 index is 3,900 and will be 4,150 by the end of the year since shares are cheap against gilts.

Certainly, 1994 looks likely to be another year in which the markets are dominated by interest rates. The stock market is already anticipating another half point cut in the base rate, which some thought would come before Christmas. If rates fall as low as 4 per cent by mid year, share prices should continue to climb, since the yield on the FT-SE 100 index is still almost 3.5 per cent.

Conversely, interest rates pose the greatest threat to the market. If US rates begin to rise, share prices on Wall Street will drop sharply. The London market is still linked closely with Wall Street, and could not avoid falling in sympathy as it did in 1987.

On an individual basis, companies cannot afford to disappoint the City in 1994. Their share prices have been fuelled by recovery hopes, and any company that admits its recovery has faltered or is taking longer than originally expected will be knocked back hard.



1994 Tempus portfolio

AT the start of every year, *Tempus* selects six stocks that it believes will outperform the market in the next 12 months. It is an unrealistic exercise, since no share portfolio can or should be rolled up in a single year — tax and brokerage costs alone would prevent it. Nevertheless, it offers a chance to track our performance.

This year, we have selected a recovery portfolio of stocks that have fallen out of favour in the past year. As the chart shows, this portfolio would have been a disaster if it had been held during 1993, falling 15 per cent against a 20 per cent rise in the FT-SE 100 index. We have also picked relatively high-yield shares that should benefit from any rate cuts but could also be cushioned in any overall market downturn.

The first stock on the list is **British Gas**. The shares fell sharply when Michael Heseltine announced before Christmas he was opening the gas market to competition from 1996. The City is worried that profits will be under pressure from independent gas suppliers and that this will leave the dividend exposed, since cover is only 1.5 times. But if BG's plans to cut a third of its workforce succeed, annual costs could be £600 million lower by 1996. If the group takes a huge provision in its full year figures in February to cover the costs of reorganisation, the City could begin to appreciate its potential. Until then, the shares look cheap on a yield of 5.5 per cent.

Shares in **Bass** have fallen 12 per cent this year, despite the rise of the brewing sector after the Budget. Doubts remain about the group's cash generating ability, particularly while the beer market continues to decline. But the continuing improvement in consumer spending would ease pressure on its revenues and improve the outlook at its Holiday Inn hotels. The shares trade on less than 14 times current year forecasts.

Food retailing was the worst performer of 1993 according to Datastream, the financial information service, falling a fifth as the supermarkets began to cut prices suffering pressure on gross margins for the first time in living memory. Fears of saturation have re-emerged with the expansion of the continental discount chains. But it will take a great deal of price cutting before a market leader like **Tesco** feels too much pain and it offers an attractive 4.5 per cent yield for the year just ending.

Pharmaceuticals was another unfashionable sector in 1993. Investors were scared by a series of concerns such as the US healthcare reforms. **Wellcome** was hardest hit, becoming the worst performer in the FT-SE 100 index, after being tenth worst in 1992. The growth in sales of Zovirax, Wellcome's anti-herpes drug, is slowing and Retrovir, the anti-Aids drug, does not have the promise the City once anticipated. But the group is still a world leader in anti-viral medicine and offers solid growth prospects. The shares look oversold on 13 times earnings.

The fifth company in the selection is **Williams Holdings**. Conglomerates are also out of fashion, but Williams is trying to reinvent itself as a home improvements group. If it succeeds, it should profit from a recovery in the housing market. The group looks poised for an acquisition that could reawaken interest.

No portfolio is complete without a penny share, and ours this year is **Babcock International** at 29½p. The engineering group has had a rough year, culminating in a £9.2 million loss for the half-year to September, after big provisions. But a new chief executive is trying to turn the group round and make the most of a healthy order book. The group manages the Rosyth royal dockyard in Scotland, due to be privatised. The shares could bounce if Babcock's bid is successful and it inherits the dockyard with a guaranteed workload.

Finally, one that must exclude widows and orphans. Bears who do not mind staking all on a high-risk venture might like to take out some insurance with the market trading so high. The best way of profiting from a falling market is to buy a FT-SE 100 put option through Liffe, the futures and options exchange. A December 1994 put option against the index falling below 3,200 would cost about £940 per contract. But remember, options are high risk-high reward investments and anyone trading in them could, and must be prepared, to lose all.

British Gas	338½p
Bass	551p
Tesco	212p
Wellcome	651p
Williams Holdings	385p
Babcock	29.5p

Prices are at close of business on Christmas Eve

NEIL BENNETT
Tempus editor

BUSINESS LETTERS

Alternative to natural gas as key fuel

From W. G. Horn

Sir, Is there to be no end to the misery being caused to the mining industry in our aim to reach theoretical goals of economic excellence? And all this whilst there is no National Energy Policy and whilst we are burning a premium fuel, natural gas, in a base application, the generation of power. Your readers should be in no doubt: we will be paying dearly for these sins at some stage in the years to come.

On the other hand, no serious considerations are being given to the possibility that we could have our cake and eat it. Coal can be turned into a mixture of light gases by partial oxidation (POX) processes, and with minor adjustments gas turbines can be fuelled with these gases instead of premium natural gas.

The advantages of such an operation are a high thermal efficiency and the opportunity of easily removing all the impurities, such as sulphur compounds, contained in the coal. Adding a "synthesis loop" would permit the production of methanol during off-peak times. Methanol and rapeseed oil can be converted into a product that is fully interchangeable with automotive diesel fuel.

The disadvantages are the high investment costs in the POX plant and the required oxygen plant. A "stand alone" economic evaluation of such a processing scheme shows it to be non-viable, even with today's low prices for coal. However, if we take into account the unemployment benefit being paid to the miners and the knock-on effect of their unemployment, a totally different set of economics arises. Rapeseed grown on set-aside land would avoid the need to hand out money to farmers and improve the economics even further. And if we are temporarily short of coal, we can still fuel the gas turbines with natural gas.

Yours faithfully,
W. G. HORN
(Chartered Engineer),
De Berkenhof,
Gorelands Lane,
Chalfont St Giles,
Buckinghamshire.

Price of lost pits

From Mr Michael Parker

Sir, I note from your report concerning the closure of three more Yorkshire pits that the justification for this is the anticipation that some seven million tonnes less coal will be required during the coming year.

The same report states that we are importing the equivalent of seven million tonnes of coal in the form of French electricity.

Even the most inept businessman knows that the time to increase prices is as soon as you have seen off the competition. Has it not occurred to those obsessed with market forces that as soon as our pits are closed, French electricity and imported coal will no longer be so attractively priced?

They will, in fact, soon become priced at a level which will discourage us — but only just — from spending the billions by that time required to re-open our coal industry. The true price of imported coal in any form will thus become its higher price, plus the multi-million cost to the tax payer to finance miners' redundancy and unemployment. In this equation I have not taken any account of the cost in misery and degradation to yet more shattered communities.

I also note, again in your same report, that the German government does not intend to render their own people and economy so vulnerable.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PARKER,
Gooderstone Manor,
King's Lynn,
Norfolk.

Fuelling an advance value-added tax

From Mr E. C. M. Lean

Sir, Following the introduction of value-added tax on fuel bills, vast amounts of money will accumulate in the bank accounts of the suppliers which, no doubt, will earn considerable sums in interest.

Surely this benefit should either be passed on to the customer by way of lower charges or the Revenue should require that tax returns be submitted, in these and other similar cases, on a monthly basis rather than quarterly as at present.

Perhaps it could be called advance value-added tax?

Yours faithfully,
E. C. M. LEAN,
Lynton,
Taylor's Hall,
Eastbourne Road,
Godstone,
Surrey.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Finding a match for Hatch in '94

AS THE new year dawns, it is time to reflect on a saga of romance at Ludgate, the financial PR firm tucked away behind Smithfield meat market in central London. Nearly everyone who joins Ludgate seems to get married, take exotic honeymoons, and (sometimes) leave. This year alone has seen two weddings and one engagement, with Margie Welch, daughter of Sir John, the former Lord Mayor, marrying Anthony Jervoise, jetting off to Africa and the Seychelles, and now happily residing in Devon. Caroline Eccles, now with an American stockbroking firm, is engaged to marry an insurance broker. Claire Jowett, known to be accident-prone — she broke her toe trying on a shoe, and nearly got squashed by a level-crossing barrier on a trip to America — married a doctor in September, and works for Glaxo. Digging deeper into Ludgate's history, one recalls Nick Kirkpatrick, who rowed his bride across a lake before honeymooning in the South Pacific; Tom Hiscocks, who married the office cook; and Simon Robinson, who wed the receptionist. All eyes are now on Louise Hatch — still at Ludgate and still single — who will be fighting off the admirers in 1994.

Travel costs

MANY large American firms are spending millions on travel without realising it. A survey of 228 senior executives found that 40 per cent of them did not know how much their companies had spent on travel this year. Eli Lilly, the drugs group, spent $75 million on travel, entertainment and meetings in 1992, and has taken drastic measures to reduce its bill. Executives fly economy rather than business class to Europe, and stay at medium-priced hotels — slashing costs by a quarter so far. The way things are going, business trips could become a thing of the past. Some firms are experimenting with video-conferencing as a way of cutting out travel altogether.

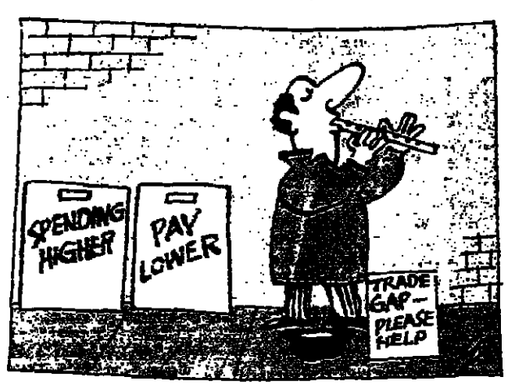
ONLY in America ... A dental centre has opened in Hesperia, California, calling itself: "The Filling Station".

Charitable works

IT IS the season of goodwill, and City money has been flooding to needy causes. In a fine effort, Wood Gundy, the stockbroker owned by Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, raised more than C$225,000 (£112,500) in a single day towards helping children in the former Yugoslavia. The funds have been donated to Children in Crisis, for the purchase of medical equipment to be sent to paediatric departments in hospitals in Split and Mostar. Keeping up the good work, Intercapital, the London derivatives broker, stumped up £228,195 to be shared by Save the Children and Médecins Sans Frontières. Glaxo, the drugs group, provided nearly half a million pounds for Centrepoint, the charity for London's homeless that has the Princess of Wales as patron. Some of the money has been put towards a refuge for children and young people. MEPC, the property company, has pledged £100,000 to Centrepoint, which celebrates its 25th anniversary next year.

Heading out

FANCY a few marketing tips from Paul Gascoigne? Or how about some slick economics footwork from Gary Lineker? Reasoning that many footballers' careers are over by the time they reach their mid-thirties, the Professional Footballers' Association is giving its 2,400 members the chance to train for a certificate in marketing. The Chartered Institute of Marketing course provides an insight into economics, business law and much more besides. Meanwhile, a set of airbrush portraits of soccer greats is being offered to the bank or stockbroker looking for a little extra colour in their lobbies. Norman Mackenzie, who produced the work, thinks the pictures would go down well in an atrium or glazed walkway. He can be reached on (081) 558 5105.



Helping hand

FERDINAND Piëch has not had a good maiden year at the helm of Volkswagen, at least not where making money on cars is concerned. All very well to blame Seat, VW's Spanish arm, for the bulk of the DM2.3 billion group loss now expected, but being that much in the red makes carmaking look a costly business. And VW knows that there are ways of making profits. A glad tiding for Herr Piëch has come from VW's own financial arm, VAG Bank, which has witnessed a dramatic surge in customer deposits this year. Customers have increased by 35 per cent to 122,000, almost tripling deposits on credit card accounts to DM630 million. *Vorsprung durch Deutschmark.*

JON ASHWORTH

مكتبة من الأصل

BBC1

7.00 News regional news and weather (1570078)
7.10 Timeless Tales Animated version of *The Emperor's New Clothes* (r) (2362813) **7.35 Smoggies!** (r) (5246707)
8.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (3413894) **8.10 Babar** Cartoon (r) (7734368) **8.35 Litt' Bits** Cartoon (1690349)
9.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (3691320) **9.05 Henry's Cat** Animation (r) (3690691) **9.10 Defenders of the Earth.** Animation (r) (1306691) **9.40 Why Don't You..?** (s) (8524287)
10.05 Playdays For infants (s) (3550455) **10.25 Funnybones** (r) (s) (1822829)
10.35 Best of British: Behind the Lines. Film clips dealing with Britons at war (2623542)
11.00 FILM: The Prince and the Pauper (1977) starring Mark Lester. Swashbuckling treatment of Mark Twain's classic Tudor tale of the prince who changes places with his double. Directed by Richard Fleischer (Ceefax) (35761287)
12.55 Regional news and weather (16284900)
1.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (63776829)
1.10 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (82376639) **1.30 Cartoon** featuring Bugs Bunny (11259702)
1.40 FILM: Explorers (1985) Three children hooked on science fiction build their own spaceship. But, once launched, they encounter an alien craft. Stars a young River Phoenix. Directed by Joe Dante (Ceefax) (s) (72415639)
3.25 Stay Tooned! Tony Robinson presents cartoons and viewers' requests (Ceefax) (1298875)
3.50 Opus and Bill Animation (1602788) **4.10 The Really Wild Show.** The story of the dodo (r) (Ceefax) (2177981) **4.35 The Movie Game Christmas Special** Jonathon Morris presents a seasonal edition of the children's film and video quiz (Ceefax) (s) (2122271)
5.05 Newsround Review of the Year (1382441)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (829558)
6.00 News with *Andrew Harvey* (Ceefax). Weather (513271)
6.15 Regional News Magazines (242271)
6.35 FILM: Ghost Dad (1990) Supernatural comedy starring Bill Cosby as a workaholic widower who is losing touch with his children. After a fatal accident, he returns to look after them. Directed by Sidney Poitier (Ceefax) (4897726)
8.00 Telly Addicts. Celebrity edition of the television trivia quiz. With Diane Bull, Frank Carson, Craig Charles, Philippa Foster, Jonathon Morris, Gary Olson and Gwen Taylor (Ceefax) (s) (6788)
8.30 Sitting Pretty. Last in the comedy series starring Diane Bull. (Ceefax) (s) (8523)
9.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (9287)

Jimmy Nail crosses the Channel (9.30pm)

9.30 Spender. A Christmas special in which a reluctant Spender (Jimmy Nail) is sent on an apparently routine assignment to escort a prisoner back from France. Of course, it turns out to be no holiday. (Ceefax) (s) (360691)
11.05 Match of the Day. Highlights from two of tonight's top matches plus December's Goal of the Month competition (s) (827875)
12.35am This Is Michael Bolton. The singer in concert (r) (s) (2902856)
1.30 Weather (1419699)

BBC2

7.00 FILM: Tender Comrade (1943, b/w). This Second World War drama with Ginger Rogers later attracted the fire of Senator Joe McCarthy who considered its theme suspiciously leftish. Four women whose men have gone away to war set up home together in a commune. Directed by Edward Dmytryk, later jailed as a result of the McCarthy witch hunt (85455252)
8.40 FILM: L'Ecole Des Facteurs (1947, b/w). Comedy short with Jacques Tati, who also directed, as François, the postman (7110542)
8.55 FILM: Tom, Dick and Harry (1941, b/w). Delightfully scatty comedy with Ginger Rogers as the telephone operator who gets her three suitors, and more importantly their financial status, mixed up. Directed by Garson Kanin (5796707)
10.20 Nene Walks (r) (1741900) **10.30 Holiday Outings** Argentina (r) (8977707)
10.35 Brum (r) (8850184) **10.45 Stoppit and Tidyup** (8965962) **10.50 The Ice Puppy.** (r) (8986455) **11.00 Christmas Crackers** (r) (9370504)
11.05 Aspen, Colorado. How the rich and famous behave in the exclusive ski resort (r) (63661368)
1.35 M*A*S*H (r) (20589146)
2.00 CHOICE **Cardiff Singer of the World** (s) (2469691)
2.50 The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures Professor Frank Close with an investigation of how the sun burns (s) (8436829)
3.50 FILM: Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961). The late Audrey Hepburn gives perhaps her best performance as the scatty socialite, Holly Golightly, out to snare a millionaire in this bitter-sweet tale Directed by Blake Edwards (Ceefax) (263146)
5.40 Tex Avery – Triple Bill (r) (362368)
6.00 Star Trek (r) (Ceefax) (193417)
6.50 Film 93 with Barry Norman (r) (s) (490981)
7.20 The Decisive Moment: The Year in Pictures. News pictures from 1993. (Ceefax) (211287)

Wandsworth prisoners get their break (8.00pm)

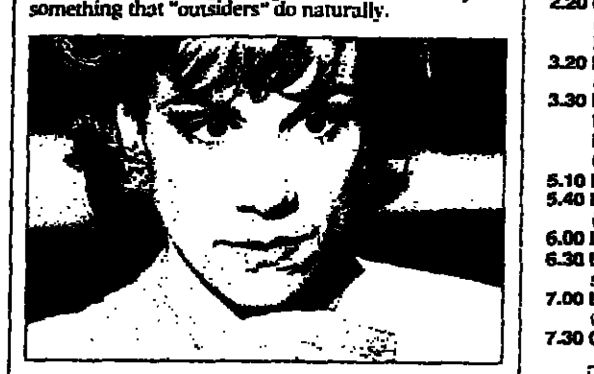
8.00 CHOICE **Guys, Dolls and D-Wing.** (Ceefax) (302310)
8.50 Seven Deadly Sins. Alan Dershowitz, a leading American lawyer, discusses anger with his students at Harvard Law School. (Ceefax) (443813)
9.00 FILM: Havana (1990). Romantic drama starring Robert Redford as a professional gambler caught up in the revolutionary ferment of Cuba in 1958. (Ceefax) (s) (72472165)
11.20 Deadly Currents. Israeli-born Canadian documentary film maker Simcha Jacobovici made this award-winning programme in 1991 about the intifada struggle by Palestinian activists against the Israelis (966392) **12.55am Weather** (2244130)
1.00 FILM: Mad Love (1935, b/w) starring Peter Lorre. A pianist loses his hands in an accident and a mad surgeon transplants the hands of a dead murderer. Directed by Karl Freund (4213189). Ends 2.10

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most videos. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For more details call VideoPlus on 0839 121204 (calls cost 36p/min cheap rate, 48p/min at other times) or write to VideoPlus+, Acomex Ltd, 5 Ivory House, Plantation Wharf, London SW11 3TN. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Marketing Ltd.

CHOICE

Guys, Dolls and D-Wing
BBC2, 8.00pm

Here is a documentary that lives up its claim to tell the "inside story". It was filmed inside the walls of Wandsworth Prison. The production we see being rehearsed will never be seen outside them. Pimlico Opera's staging of *Guys and Dolls* integrated Wandsworth inmates with professional production people and actors. Richard Trayler-Smith's film goes beyond the cataloguing of the formidable logistical problems of putting on a show behind bars. It establishes a penal therapy context for a joint venture in which the free and the incarcerated were able to combine on equal terms. As the show's choreographer says, the Wandsworth singers and hoofers were not used to converting imagination into reality — something that "outsiders" do naturally.



Juliet Stevenson marks her card (Channel 4, 9.30pm)

Who Dealt?
Channel 4, 9.30pm

The opening titles of Ring Lardner's aloe-bitter story fade, and the two married couples leave the dinner-table laughing. Reaching the card-table, their laughter stops. So do three of the voices. From then on, there is only one voice, that of the wife who has thrown the party to celebrate meeting two of her husband's best friends. Her verbal humiliation of her husband is unremitting. She talks. The others react, but their silence is as eloquent as her words. David Bailey directs the play as a series of close-ups, putting his photographer's experience to good use, especially in his exploration of Juliet Stevenson's face as the contents of the whisky glass thicken her soliloquy.

Cardiff Singer of the World
BBC2, 2.00pm

Wales's reputation as the Land of Song, never seriously challenged, was enhanced yet again last June with the staging in Cardiff of this knock-out competition for singers hankering after operatic glory. Tonight, and for the next two nights, BBC2 presents some of the highlights of a week that kept opera-lovers glued to their television sets. We shall also learn how the winners have fared on the international stage since they collected their Cardiff prizes. I thought that Natalie Wheen captured the excitement of the occasion as few other programme presenters could have done. I must be honest, however, and admit that not everyone shared my enthusiasm for her enthusiasm.

Robert Mitchum: The Reluctant Star
Channel 4, 3.45pm

None of the famous actors and film-makers who contribute to Gene Feldman's profile of the veteran Hollywood star says anything detrimental about him. This is par for the course in film biographies such as this. No warts on *The Reluctant Star*, then, but there are plenty of shrewd insights into the actor's character and performing talent. The director Sydney Pollock gets it right when he characterises Mitchum as a powerful and lazy horse or, alternatively, as a man whose face gives the impression that he has seen it all, and has been marinaded by life. Mitchum's own comments about himself are almost embarrassingly self-effacing.
Peter Davalle

ITV LONDON

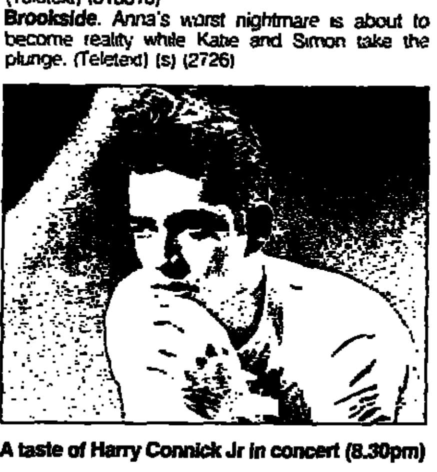
6.00 GMTV 8.40 Parkin's In... Panto (4296558)
9.25 The New Adventures of He-Man Cartoon (9558271) **9.50 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (3305436) **9.55 Bugs Bunny in King Arthur's Court** (6037146)
10.20 FILM: Babes in Toyland (1961) Disney musical fantasy remake of the 1930s Laurel and Hardy hit. Toyland's meanest man threatens to evict the Old Woman and her daughter Bo Peep, from their shoe. Directed by Jack Donohue (25257894) **12.20 London Today** (9651078)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (2544523)
12.55 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (2552542) **1.25 Home and Away** (Teletext) (26071691) **1.55 A Country Practice** (s) (29364928)
2.20 Gardener's Diary presented by John Ravenscroft (17310078) **2.50 The Young Doctors.** Australian hospital drama (5318542)
3.20 News and weather (9332368) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (9331639)
3.30 FILM: Carry On Jack (1964) The year is 1805 and the gang are on the good ship *Venus* under Captain Fearless, alias Kenneth Williams. Directed by Gerald Thomas (537233)
5.10 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (4437310)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (359894)
6.00 London Tonight (Teletext) (900)
6.30 Laugh With the Carry Ons. Clips from the successful *Carry On* series of film comedies (252)
7.00 Lose a Million Game show hosted by Chris Tarrant (s) (5436)
7.30 Coronation Street (Teletext) (436)

Nostalgia time with Phillip Schofield (8.00pm)

8.00 Schofield's Christmas TV Gold Phillip Schofield presents a selection from Christmas programmes past as well as memorable newspaper stories. (Teletext) (3165)
9.00 FILM: Suspect (1987) Courtroom thriller. Cher plays a lawyer who uncovers disturbing evidence when she defends a deaf mute Vietnam veteran accused of murder. Directed by Peter Yates. Continues after the news. (Teletext) (s) (5566610)
10.15 ITN News (Teletext) and weather (965146)
10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (551875)
10.35 FILM: Suspect, continued (562726)
11.35 FILM: A Fistful of Dollars (1964). The film that made Clint Eastwood a star. He plays the mysterious gunslinger with no name who rides into a Mexican border town run by rival gangs. Directed by Sergio Leone (916349)
1.20am FILM: City on Fire (1979), starring Henry Fonda. Disaster movie with firefighters struggling to control an oil refinery fire which threatens to engulf an entire city. Directed by Alvin Rakoff (392276)
3.20 FILM: Simon, Simon (1970). Comedy short mime about two workmen who wreck their platform lorry when they drive it under a bridge. Graham Stark persuaded stars such as Peter Sellers, Michael Caine, Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise to take part in this piece of slapstick (4914419)
3.55 America's Top Ten. (s) (99442635)
4.25 FILM: Top Kids (1987). Three children try to hack into a super computer. Directed by Michael Pfleghar (8452634)
5.55 ITN Morning News (3394363) Ends 6.00

CHANNEL 4

7.00 Ulysses 31. Animation (r) (2364271) **7.25 Spiff and Hercules** (2350078) **7.50 Dennis** Animation (2763417)
8.00 The Big Breakfast. (39146)
10.00 Saved by the Bell American teenage comedy (r) (32233) **10.30 The Lone Ranger** (b/w) Classic western adventures (48287)
11.00 Strangers (r) (5304894) **11.25 Michelangelo** Animation (8475504)
11.30 Profiles of Nature The first hours in the life of many new animals, filmed by Walter and Myrna Berlet (r) (40287)
12.30 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning series (12097)
1.30 Julie Julie Andrews is left in charge of an orang-utan (s) (76504)
2.00 FILM: Girl Shy (1924, b/w). Another in the season of silent comedy classics with Harold Lloyd. He plays a bashful young man who goes to the city to try to sell a book he has written on love-making. Directed by Fred Newmeyer and Sam Taylor (120707)
3.40 Mirage Film short about a thirsty man who finds a drinks dispenser in the desert (1623436)
3.45 CHOICE **Robert Mitchum – the Reluctant Star.** (Teletext) (6331946)
4.55 Big Apple Tinsel. Writers Fred Turen and Jerome Charyn reminisce about their childhood in the Bronx area of New York (Teletext) (s) (8599146)
5.10 Oprah Winfrey. Oprah visits a couple with five children and offers to babysit while they have the night off (Teletext) (s) (3794962)
6.00 Mork and Mindy Mork falls in with a gang of racists (r) (542)
6.30 A Different World A new series of the comedy series set on an American college campus (s) (8941)
7.00 Channel 4 New (Teletext) and weather (768165)
7.50 Tall Stories Jack Brod talks about the Empire State Building, his home since it opened in 1930 (Teletext) (313813)
8.00 Brookside. Anna's worst nightmare is about to become reality while Katie and Simon take the plunge. (Teletext) (s) (2726)



A taste of Harry Connick Jr in concert (8.30pm)

8.30 Harry Connick Jr. The New Orleans singer in concert at New York's Paramount Theater (s) (43455)
9.30 CHOICE **Who Dealt?** (Teletext) (97097)
10.00 The Golden Girls: Bringing Up Baby. American comedy series (67368)
10.30 Sean's Show. Final episode of the comedy with Sean Hughes (s) (43788)
11.00 Hookers, Hustlers and Pimps. Director Beeban Kidron takes a personal look at prostitution in New York. (Teletext) (s) (401707)
12.35am Desperately Seeking Roger. Julian Clary goes to New York in search of his hero, Roger Whittaker, the folk singer. En route, he meets Eartha Kitt, Brooke Shields and Quentin Crisp (r) (s) (4113856)
1.40 FILM: Duck Soup (1933, b/w). The Marx Brothers on top form. Groucho is Rufus T. Firefly, the prime minister of Freedonia, who plunges his country into war with neighbouring Sylvania when he insults their ambassador. Harpo and Chico add to the fun as double agents. Directed by Leo McCarey (5539160)
2.50 LA Law. American courtroom drama series (r) (9795092). Ends at **3.45**

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and **MW. 4.00am** Neale James (**FM** only) **7.00** Bruno Brookes **10.00** Lynn Parsons **2.00** Steve Edwards in the Afternoon **5.30** Newsbeat **5.35** Evening Session **8.30** Sting — by Public Demand: Recorded in concert at Hildesheim earlier this year **10.00** Mark Radcliffe live from Manchester **12.00** The Christmas Knowledge (**FM** only) with Alan Freeman **12.30-4.00am** Claire Sturgess (**FM** only)

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **5.00am** Martin Kelner **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.05** Sarah Kennedy **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Angela Rippon **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Jim Lloyd **8.30** Harding with a Mike **9.00** Anita Bhalla's Across Two Cultures. With Keith Vaz, MP **9.30** Nigel Ogden **10.30** Adrian Love **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00-5.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5

6.00am World Service **6.30** Morning Edition **9.00** Take Five **9.55** Likely Stories. Everybody in the House, by Alan Gibley **10.25** The AM Alternative with Janice Long **12.30pm** Billy Liar (r) **1.10.** The Crunch **2.30** BFBS Worldwide **4.05** John Inverdale's Drive-In **6.30** Carr Lane Karters **7.15** Bedknob and Broomstick (3/10) **7.30** Trevor Brooking's Football Night **10.10** Hit the North **12.00-12.10am** News, Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT. 4.30am** BBC English **4.45** News and Press Review in German **5.00** Morgenmagazin Tips für Touristen **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** News **6.15** The World Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** Development '93 **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** The Multitrack Sessions **8.30** Quote, Unquote **9.00** News **9.05** Business Report **9.15** Country Style **9.30** Science or Fiction **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** News **10.01** Omnibus **10.30** Jazz for the Asking **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Mittagsmagazin. News in German **Noon** News **12.10pm** Words of Faith **12.15** New Ideas **12.35** Trees **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Off the Shelf: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* **2.45** Good Books **3.00** World News **3.15** Unconsidered Trifles: See Choice **3.30** Two Cheers for 1993 **4.00** News **4.10** British News **4.15** BBC English **4.30** Heute Aktuell **5.00** News **5.05** Business Report **5.15** BBC English **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Heute Aktuell **7.00** Nachrichten **7.05** Kaleidoskop **8.00** World News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** The World Today **8.30** Europe Today **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.15** Sports Review of the Year **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.05** World Business Report **11.15** From Our Own Correspondent **11.30** Multitrack 2 **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** Two Cheers for 1993 **1.00** World News **1.05** Outlook **1.30** Waveguide **1.40** Book Choice **1.45** Farming World **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** Sports Review **3.00** News **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** Assignment **4.00** News **4.15** Farming World

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto Telemann (Concerto in D for trumpet and two oboes: Soloists: English String Orchestra under William Boughton) **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** The Best of Book Browse **8.00** Evening Concert. André Previn conducts Berlioz (Overture, Roman Carnival: LSO), Ravel (Rapsodie espagnole: Royal Philharmonic Orchestra), Liszt (Piano Concerto No 1 in E Flat. Mischa Dichter; Pittsburgh SO) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00-6.00am** Robert Booth

VIRGIN 1215

6.00am Russ and Jono **10.00** Richard Skinner **1.00pm** Kevin Greening **4.00** Tommy Vance. Hard driving rock **7.00** Mitch Johnson **10.00** Nick Abbot **2.00-6.00am** Tommy Rivers

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 12.20pm-12.30 Anglia News And Weather (9651078) **2.20-3.20** Knight Rider (3080962) **3.25-3.30** Anglia News and Weather (9331639) **5.10-5.40** The Munsters Today (4437310) **6.00** Home And Away (155271) **6.25-7.00** Anglia News & Weather (931768) **10.30-10.35** Anglia News (551875) **1.20am** Film: Jealousy, Italian Style (392276) **3.20-3.50** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (21838653)

CENTRAL

As London except: 9.50am-9.55 Central News (3305436) **12.20pm-12.30** Central News (9651078) **1.55** Film: Chopper Squad (5235813) **3.15-3.20** Gardening Time (9335455) **3.25** Central News (9331639) **3.30** Ngaio Marsh Mystery: Opening Night (537233) **5.10-5.40** Talkabout (4437310) **6.00** Home And Away (155271) **6.25-7.00** Central News (931768) **10.30-10.35** Central News (551875) **1.20am** Hams Down Under (554295) **3.10** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (35439450) **3.40** Film, The Legend Of Young Dick Turpin (194059) **5.25-5.55** The Littlest Hobo (7573059)

GRANADA

As London except: 9.50am-9.55 Granada News (3305436) **12.20pm-12.30** Granada News (9651078) **12.55** Home And Away (2552542) **1.25** A Country Practice (82377542) **1.50** Coronation Street (20583349) **2.20** Wish You Were Here..? (17310078) **2.50-3.20** Sons And Daughters (5318542) **3.25-3.30** Granada News (9331639) **5.10-5.40** Blockbusters (4437310) **6.00** Home And Away (900) **6.30** Granada Tonight Special (483691) **6.55-7.00** Kick Off (282184) **10.30-10.35** Granada News (551875) **1.20am** Film: Jealousy, Italian Style (392276) **3.20-3.50** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (21838653)

HTV WEST

As London except: 9.50am-9.55 HTV News (3305436) **12.20pm-12.30** HTV News (9651078) **1.55-3.20** Ironman World Triathlon Championships 1993 (6004894) **3.25** HTV News (9331639) **3.30-5.10** Film: The Apple Dumpling Gang (537233) **6.00** HTV News (900) **6.30-7.00** Wish You Were Here..? (252) **10.30-10.35** HTV News (551875) **1.20am** Film, Jealousy, Italian Style (392276) **3.20-3.50** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (21838653)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: 9.50am-9.55 HTV Wales News (3305436) **12.20pm-12.30** HTV Wales News (9651078) **3.25-3.30** HTV Wales Headlines (9331639) **6.00** Wales At Six (900) **6.30-7.00** The Munsters Today (252) **10.30-10.35** HTV Wales News & Weather (551875)

MERIDIAN

As London except: 9.50am-9.55 Meridian News & Weather (3305436) **12.20pm-12.30** Meridian News & Weather (9651078) **1.55-3.20** Film: Ali Baba And The Seven Saracens (6004894) **3.25** Meridian News & Weather (9331639) **3.30-5.10** Film: The Apple Dumpling Gang (537233) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (900) **6.30-7.00** Grass Roots (252) **10.30-10.35** Meridian News (551875)

TYNE TEES

As London except: 9.50am-9.55 Tyne Tees News (3305436) **12.20pm-12.30** Tyne Tees News (9651078) **1.55-3.20** Film: Ali Baba And The Seven Saracens (6004894) **3.25-3.30** Tyne Tees News (9331639) **5.55** Tyne Tees Today (741078) **6.30-7.00** Cross Wits (252) **10.30-10.35** Tyne Tees News (551875) **1.20am-3.20** Film Champions (392276)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: 9.50am-9.55 Westcountry Latest (3305436) **12.20pm-12.30** Westcountry Latest (9651078) **1.55** Take The High Road (20585320) **2.25** Travel Trails (17318349) **2.55-3.20** A Country Practice (1099829) **3.25-3.30** Westcountry Latest (9331639) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (87610) **10.30-10.35** Westcountry Latest (551875) **1.20am** Film, Jealousy, Italian Style (392276) **3.20** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (21838653) **3.50-3.55** Get Stuffed (80355856)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 9.50am-9.55 Calendar News (3305436) **12.20pm-12.30** Calendar News (9651078) **1.55-3.20** Film: Ali Baba And The Seven Saracens (6004894) **3.25-3.30** Calendar News (9331639) **5.55** Calendar (741078) **6.30-7.00** Cross Wits (252) **10.30-10.35** Calendar News (551875) **1.20am-3.20** Film, Champions (392276)

S4C

Starts: 7.00am Ulysses 31 (2364271) **7.25** Spiff And Hercules (2350078) **7.50** Dennis (2763417) **8.00** The Big Breakfast (39146) **10.00** Saved By The Bell (32233) **10.30** The Lone Ranger (48287) **11.00** Strangers (5304894) **11.25** Dennis (1576417) **11.50** Julie (8496097) **12.20pm** Slot Meithrin (2415813) **12.45** Harold Lloyd: The Third Genius (341504) **1.45** Film: Movie Crazy (43643813) **3.20** Film Speedy (40850558) **5.00** Gamesmaster (6542) **5.30** Fifteen To One (829) **6.00** Newyddion (695829) **6.10** Slot 23 (117097) **7.00** Patagonola Newydd? (3078) **7.30** Glyn A Beti (338) **8.00** Glan Hafren (2726) **8.30** Newyddion (171184) **8.45** Teulu'r Mans (7878639) **10.00** Brookside (67368) **10.30** Film: New York Stories (90939981) **12.50am** Ready Steady Go! (1205160)

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather 7.00 On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Liszt (Chasse-neige, Transcendental Studies); Mozart (Symphony No 6 in F, K43), Britten (Canticle IV, Journey of the Magi); Praetorius (Quem Pastores laudavere); **8.22** *Artist of the Week*: Mieczyslaw Horszowski, piano. Bach (Preludes and Fugues in G and G minor, 48 Bk I); **8.41** Strauss (Macbeth)
9.00 Composers of the Week: The Strauss Family of Vienna. The stage work of Johann Strauss, son, including excerpts from the operettas *Die Fledermaus* and *Die Zigeunerbaron*, and music from Strauss's only grand opera, *Cagliostro in Wien*
10.00 Midweek Choice: Susan Sharpe presents Siegfried Translateur (Wiener Praterleben); Alan Bush (Alla Bulgare, Op 31 No 3); Constant Lambert (Suite, Horoscope); Rubinstein (Barcarolle in G minor); Debussy (Sonata for flute, viola and harp); Korngold (The Enchanted Princess, The Princess and the Pea; Rubezahl, Märchenbilder); Giuliani (Guitar Concerto No 2 in A, Op 36); Virgil Thomson (Etudes Nos 7-10)
12.00 The BBC Orchestras: BBC Philharmonic (r)
1.00pm News
1.05 Janis Kelly and Derek Lee Ragin. The soprano and counter-tenor, with Julius Drake, piano, perform works by Maude Valerie White, Vaughan Williams, Bridge, Ivor Gurney, Howells, Britten, Argento, Cage, Gershwin and Mendelssohn (r)
3.30 Music in Pepys's London: Locke (Suite No 4 in C, The Broken Consort); Henry Lawes (Go, lovely rose; Sweet, stay awhile); Purcell (In Nomine in seven parts, Z747; Sonata in four parts No 6). Plus readings from Pepys's diaries
4.00 Choral Evensong, live from the Abbey Church, Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire, sung by the Exon Singers
5.00 A Musician's Musician: Edward Downes reflects on the Austrian conductor Erich Kleiber and introduces some of his greatest recordings. Weber (Wolf Glen scene, Der Freischütz); Berg (Three Pieces from Wozzeck); Strauss (Der Rosenkavalier — excerpts); and Beethoven (Symphony No 5 in C minor)
7.00 A Most Disreputable Profession: The third of a six-part series on the history of singing opera for a living, presented by John Rosselli. See Choice
7.30 La Vestale: The Chorus and Orchestra of La Scala, Milan, under Riccardo Muti perform Spontini's three-act opera. With Anthony Michaels-Moore as Licinius, Karen Huffstodt as Julia and Patrick Raftery as Cinna. First staged in 1807, *La Vestale* tells the story of the forbidden love between a vestal virgin and a notorious Roman general in 296 BC. Sung in French
10.30 Arthur's Knight: Sir Perceval, Kevin Crossley-Holland's penultimate tale is of the quest for the Holy Grail. With Richard Griffiths as Malory and Diana Quick as Mother Anne
11.30 Ensembles: The Frankl/Pauk/Kirshbaum Trio performs Bartók (Rhapsody No 1; Rhapsody No 2); and Brahms (Piano Trio No 2 in C, Op 87) (r) **12.30-12.35am News**

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping **6.00** News, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** On Yer Bike, Schwelk! by Eric Davidson. Third of five wartime stories **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Midweek, presented by Libby Purves and Brian Hayes
9.45 Down Your Ear, with Armando Iannucci
10.00-10.30 On the Hoof (FM only): A new series profiling horse-mad characters. Today, octogenarian Kathleen Mack, who breeds racehorses on a small stud near Newmarket
10.00 News; Daily Service (LW only) from Tewkesbury Abbey
10.15 The Bible (LW only): Matthew (2/10) (r)
10.30 The Village: Nigel Farrell continues the saga of village life in Bentley, Hampshire
11.00 News; Goodbye... Songs and stories about the emotional goodbyes of life
11.30 Murder at the Vicarage: Part three of Agatha Christie's mystery. With June Whitfield as Miss Marple
12.00 News; That's What Friends Are For: Sandra, a Bosnian Serb, and Selma, a Bosnian Muslim, talk about their friendship
12.25pm Masterbrain: Robert Robinson chairs a match featuring the winners and runners-up of 1993 *Brain of Britain* and *Mastermind* **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with James Naughtie
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Christmas at the Ritz: On Approval. Frederick Lonsdale's 1920s comedy of manners with Maria Aitken, John Standing, Samantha Bond and Alex Jennings
3.30 Ad Lib: Robert Robinson talks to private detectives (r)
4.00 News 4.05 Going Back: Sue returns to Prague where, as a four-year-old, she was separated from her parents in 1948
4.45 What a Difference a Day Makes: Wednesday
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Word of Mouth: The results of the competition to find Britain's best user of spoken English (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Relative Values: Pete and Chrissie Twigg led a nomadic life before moving to a council estate (r)
8.00 ET on Trial: Attorneys Heather Couper and Nigel Henbest ask whether the evidence for extra-terrestrial life would stand up in court
8.45 A Scot's Quair: Iain Crichton Smith, Elle McDonald, Jo Miller and George Gunn select their favourite poetry
9.15 Elizabeth Poston 1905-1987: Andrew Green's portrait of the composer, writer and pianist
9.45 The Rush: John Wilson talks to 27-year-old Jenny Grant who hopes to become British Midland's first female captain **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Changes of Address, by Lee Langley. Read by Juliet Stevenson (1/8)
11.00 Pedalling Backwards (r)
11.30 Play As I Please. Gigging Around. Humphrey Lyttelton basks in the footlights (3/4)
12.00-12.43am News, incl **12.27** Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** As World Service (**LW** only)

CHOICE

A Most Disreputable Profession. *Radio 3, 7.00pm.*
John Rosselli continues to bring a delightfully light touch to his history of opera singers. Tonight, the prima donna arrives on the scene in the mid-18th century. *She is,* by now, *the essence of respectability* whereas, a century earlier, women singers were bracketed with prostitutes. A century before that, they could combine singing with *the even more lucrative occupation* of being an accomplice in a stabbing. The practice of women playing men's roles waned after one of them decided to stop because, without elaborating, *she said it was proving to be bad for her health.*

Unconsidered Trifles. *World Service, 3.15pm.*
Probably the oddest item in the civil aviation ephemera collection of Elizabeth Grieg, a retired psychotherapist, is the 1920s air trip ticket which politely requests passengers not to walk on the aircraft's wings. Brian Sibley's series of interviews with collectors promises a fair quota of surprises and not a little eccentric fun. The appeal of collecting breakfast cereal boxes is less easy to understand than the fascination of building up a library of old newspapers. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2:** FM 88-90.2. **RADIO 3:** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4:** 198kHz/1515m; FM 92.4-94.6. **RADIO 5:** 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. **LBC:** 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. **CAPITAL:** 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. **GLR:** FM 94.9; **WORLD SERVICE:** MW 648kHz/463m. **CLASSIC FM:** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN:** MW 1215, 1197, 1242 kHz.
COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00am The DJ Kat Show (83454639) **8.40** Lamb Chops Play-a-Long (7232875) **9.10** Cartoons (4920097) **9.30** Card Sharks (39097) **9.55** Concentration (7583558) **10.25** Dynamo Duck (7009691) **10.30** Love at First Sight (10469) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (15078) **12.00** The Urban Peasant (82691) **12.30pm** Paradise Beach (33813) **1.00** Barnaby Jones (38368) **2.00** The Rhinemann Exchange (99542) **3.00** Another World (6936417) **3.45** The DJ Kat Show (5163455) **5.00** Star Trek, The Next Generation (1829) **6.00** Games World (2233) **6.30** Paradise Beach (6813) **7.00** Rescue (2558) **7.30** Growing Pains (2097) **8.00** Hunter (51287) **9.00** Picket Fences (68523) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (61610) **11.00** The Untouchables (29271) **12.00** The Streets of San Francisco (86276) **1.00am** Night Court (46363) **1.30-2.00** Maniac Mansion (76092)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise (66875) **9.30** Review of the Year (91691) **10.30** Parapsychology (80097) **11.30** Review of the Year: Politics (93349) **12.30pm** News and Business (84813) **1.30** CBS News (85542) **2.30** Review of the Year (38900) **4.30** News and Business (2610) **5.00** Live at Five (532879) **7.30** Fashion TV (2469) **9.30** Review of the Year (11691) **11.30** CBS News (75233) **12.30am** ABC News (15478) **1.30** Fashion TV (84382) **2.30** Review of the Year (16030) **3.30** Parapsychology (95547) **4.30** Fashion TV (13382) **5.30-6.00** CBS News (93547)

SKY MOVIES

6.15am Showcase (95191349)
10.00 Remember When (1974): Wartime drama with Jack Warden (12294523)
12.10pm Final Shot: The Hank Gathers Story (1992). The story of the basketball player and his fight against illness (418829)
2.00 Fire, Ice and Dynamite (1990): Eccentric billionaire Roger Moore stages a sporting marathon in the Swiss Alps (52962)
4.00 The Wackiest Ship in the Army (1960): A gunship is used as a decoy during the war. With Jack Lemmon (3233)
6.00 Fall from Grace (1990): Story of the rise and fall of evangelists the Reverend Jim Bakker and his wife Tammy (72726)
8.00 The Hand That Rocks the Cradle (1992): Psychopathic nanny Rebecca De Mornay exacts her revenge (77271)
10.00 Operation Condor: Armour of God II: Jackie Chan martial arts thriller about the hunt for gold in North Africa (810271)
11.50 Hamburger... The Motion Picture (1986). Young tearaways enrol in a chaotic burger-flipping school (249233)
1.20am Some Kind of Hero (1981) Richard Pryor returns from a Vietnamese prison camp (751437)
3.00 The Long Day's Dying (1969): Soldiers are trapped behind enemy lines (190092) **4.35 Fall from Grace** (as 6pm) (5934011) Ends at **6.10**

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Little Shop of Horrors (1960): Horror-comedy about a giant people-eating plant. With Jack Nicholson (99639)
7.30 The Great Gatsby (1974): Robert Redford and Mia Farrow star in F Scott Fitzgerald's story of love and avarice in the hedonistic 1920s (210368)
10.00 Body Heat (1981): Kathleen Turner seduces William Hurt into murdering her husband (168243). Ends at **11.55**

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am The Ambassador's Daughter (1956) Romantic comedy with Olivia de Havilland and John Forsythe (30146)
8.00 Yogi's Great Escape: More cartoon adventures with the bungling bear (68436)
10.00 Back to God's Country (1953): Rock Hudson finds his furs and his wife under threat in the Canadian winter (35271)
12.00 By Love Possessed (1961): Lana Turner has an adulterous affair with an upper-class lawyer (74287)
2.00pm Vincent and Me (1990). A girl becomes embroiled in art fraud (50504)
4.00 Yogi's Great Escape (as 8am) (49123894)
5.45 Treasure Island (1989) With Charlton Heston as Long John Silver (20506962)
8.00 Doc Hollywood (1991): Michael J Fox plays a brash doctor who is forced to work in a one-horse town (23109165)
9.45 Special Feature: Actors Turned Directors (365962)
10.10 The Hard Way (1991). A cop (James Woods) is shadowed by a vain and silly actor, played by Michael J Fox (614097)
12.00 The Good Family (1990): Comedy about a family thrown into disarray after dad Tony Curtis dies at the table (813059)
1.35am Contract for Murder (1993). Fact based murder-mystery (82251498)
3.50 Blood Moon (1990): A killer targets love-struck Catholic schoolgirls (2741905) Ends at **5.35**

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Soccer News (6636233) **7.15** Prime Bodies (922233) **7.45** White Water Rafting (921504) **8.15** Soccer News (2389146) **8.30** News Challenge (58287) **9.00** Prime Bodies (76639) **9.30** Darts (39962) **11.30** Super Bowls (44097) **12.30pm** Trucks and Tractors (32177) **1.00** Football (95252) **2.00** Darts (170436) **5.00** Drag Racing (8184) **5.30** Motor World (4610) **6.00** Soccer News (212165) **6.15** Sportsworld (440097) **7.00** Darts (56349) **9.00** American Sports (38833) **10.00** Soccer (140875) **10.15** Boxing (335523) **12.15-2.15am** Darts (815295)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Step Aerobics (40788) **8.00** Gymnastics (39184) **10.00** Dancing: Cinderella Cup (62900) **11.00** Alpine Skiing (20639) **12.30pm** Olympic Magazine (92165) **1.00** Rallying (53252) **1.30** American Football (50146) **3.00** Duathlon (69788) **4.00** Winter Olympics Magazine (9542) **4.30** Alpine Skiing (49875) **5.30** Equestrian World Cup (47981) **6.30** News (4441) **7.00** Boxing (87504) **8.30** Rallying (1271) **9.00** Motorsport (95691) **10.00** Ice Hockey (43436) **11.30** Rallying (38455) **12.00-12.30am** News (54672)

UK GOLD

7.00am GP (7576962) **7.30** Neighbours (7595097) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (2622981) **8.30** EastEnders (2621252) **9.00** The Bill (2612504) **9.30** Juliet Bravo (8800177) **10.30** The Brothers (9019349) **11.30** Happy Ever After (7873368) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (2632368) **12.30pm** Neighbours (8013455) **1.00** EastEnders (7575233) **1.30** The Bill (8012726) **2.00** It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (4556233) **2.30** Get Some In (7854287) **3.00** Dallas (7877184) **4.00** Dynasty (7856691) **5.00** Blankety Blank (4570813) **5.30** Give Us a Clue (7752875) **6.00** Neighbours (7759788) **6.30** EastEnders (7773368) **7.00** Juliet Bravo (8972287) **8.00** It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (4576097) **8.30** Get Some In (4555504) **9.00** Jemima Shore Investigates (8898271) **10.00** The Bill (2633097) **10.30** Whoops Baghdad (2619417) **11.00** Top of the Pops (9047184) **11.40** Dr Who (5717417) **12.10am** FILM: Danny Boy (1941, b/w): A singer searches for her husband and son (72678030) **1.30** Video Bites (1925363) **2.00** Shopping (7445127)

CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Jack in the Box (64455) **7.00** RatKan II (37813) **9.00** T-Rex (90233) **9.30** Beakman's World (27875) **10.00** The Witches and the Grinnygog (94441) **10.30** Captain and the Games Master (96417) **11.00** You Can't Do That on Television (28455) **11.30** Ghostbusters (29184) **12.00** Fame (40726) **1.00pm** The California Raisins (30900) **1.30** Round the Bend (20962) **2.00** Ironman (7964) **2.30** The Finder (6875) **3.00** Piggsburg Pigs (8650707) **3.25** RatKan II (2836900) **3.30** Ovide and the Gang (3320) **4.00** The Charlie Brown and Snoopy Show (2455) **4.30-5.00** Around the World in 80 Seconds (8639)

NICKELODEON

7.00am Dawn Patrol (67455) **7.30** Guts (46962) **8.00** Get the Picture (57558) **8.30** Fraggle Rock (56829) **9.00** New Adventures of Speed Racer (67981) **9.30** Wild Side (94523) **10.00** Janosch's Dream (12417) **10.30** David the Gnome (63165) **11.00** Cartoons (60417) **11.30** Eureeka's Castle (42639) **12.30pm** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (1064894) **4.00** Capitol Critters (9788) **4.30** The New Adventures of Speed Racer (1900) **5.00** Clarissa Explains it All (6726) **5.30** Get the Picture (2252) **6.00** Guts (9165) **6.30-7.00** Welcome Freshman (4207)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Challenge of the Seas (7763981) **4.30** The Arctic (7769165) **5.00** The Munro Show (4578455) **5.30** Anthony Steward, The Last of the Firsts (7750417) **6.00** Only in Hollywood (6554287) **6.05** Beyond 2000 (4860504) **7.00** Australia Wild (4558691) **7.30** Orang-Utan (7760894) **8.00** Animal Hospital (4574639) **8.30** Paramedics (4553146) **9.00** The Dinosaurs (8896813) **10.00** Legion of the Damned (6899900) **11.00** Waterways (7855962) **11.30-12.00** Earthfile (2541078)

BRAVO

12.00 Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman (2627436) **12.30pm** FILM, Irene (1940, b/w) A model falls in love with well-bred smoothie Ray Milland (33710981) **2.20** FILM: Private's Progress (1956, b/w): Army farce (1915504) **4.00** The Flying Nun (7767707) **4.30** My Three Sons (7758691) **5.00** The Beverly Hillbillies (4565981) **5.30** Donny and Marie (7770271) **6.00** Honey West (7777184) **6.30** Scotland Yard (7768436) **7.00** The Big Valley (8894455) **8.00** FILM: Gigi (1958) Musical with Leslie Caron and Maurice Chevalier (8874691) **10.00** FILM: Curse of the Crimson Altar (1968): Horror outing (2161900) **11.30-12.00** The Twilight Zone (2538504)

UK LIVING

7.00am Jayne and Friends (5809271) **8.00** Fame, Fortune and Romance (6454225) **8.30** Living Daylights (3662900) **8.45** Yoga (3667455) **9.00** Divorce Court (9804946) **9.30** Hot Topics (8164287) **10.00** The Treatment (3590691) **10.30** Living Extra (7909310) **11.00** The Home Show (4424078) **11.30** Masterchef 1991 (4425707) **12.00** Practical Living (27012542) **12.15pm** Kilroy (1837287) **1.00** Crosswits (2715368) **1.30** Divorce Court (8061146) **2.00** Days of Our Lives (3591320) **3.00** Agony Hour (4429523) **4.00** Crosswits (5129392) **4.30** Infatuation (9729356) **5.00** Jayne and Friends (6397558) **6.00** Health UK (9925959) **6.30** Raw Energy (4779851) **7.00** Agony Hour (4424959) **8.00** The Young and the Restless (7478879) **9.00** FILM: For Ladies Only (1981): Gregory Harrison becomes an exotic dancer (55534349) **10.45** Oh2 Talk Feelings (4402078) **11.00** Infatuation (4512397) **11.30** Dr Ruth (3596875) **12.00-1.00am** Days of Our Lives (5863479)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm The Wonder Years (1436) **5.30** Danger Bay (2691) **6.00** Big Brother Jake (9504) **6.30** Catchphrase (3184) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (4900) **7.30** Clued Up (9368) **8.00** Remington Steele (44981) **9.00** Neon Rider (31417) **10.00** WKRP in Cincinnati (11726) **10.30** The Bob Newhart Show (97146) **11.00** Newhart (10436) **11.30** The Mary Tyler Moore Show (94405) **12.00-1.00am** The Best of Lou Grant (60818)

MTV

6.00am Wild Side (611368) **9.00** VJ Ingo (323691) **12.00** Greatest Hits (42184) **1.00pm** VJ Simone (587542) **3.30** The Report (6397455) **3.45** At the Movies (6385610) **4.00** News (5568962) **4.15** 3 from 1 (5581813) **4.30** Dial MTV (5177) **5.00** The Soul of MTV (3894) **5.30** Music Non-Stop (91078) **7.00** The Real World II (6558) **7.30** Robert Plant Live from Montreux (68252) **8.30** Mick Jagger Wandering Spirit (1813) **9.00** Greatest Hits (33875) **10.00** The Report (221349) **10.15** At the Movies (219504) **10.30** News (743338) **10.45** 3 from 1 (298243) **11.00** Post Modern (50962) **1.00am** VJ Marijne (21653) **2.00-6.00** Night Videos (7324996)

TV ASIA

6.00am Persian Dawn (51981) **7.00** Regional News (35455) **7.30** Asian Morning (99946) **9.00** Guldasta (70558) **10.00** Pakistani FILM (329875) **1.00pm** Talash (34726) **1.30** Hindi FILM. Archana (332829) **4.30** Kiddie Time (5165) **5.00-6.00** TVA and You (7097) **7.00** Mere Saath Chal (6962) **7.30** Worldline (2829) **8.00** English News (460928) **8.15** Hindi FILM. Yeh Rishta Na Toote (59865691) **11.15** Pal Jhar (880894) **12.05am** Five Past Midnight (5607108) **1.35-6.00** Sight and Sound (18705059)

TNT

Tonight's Theme: Gang Stars
7.00pm Chandler (1971). A private eye follows a gangster's moll (38110078)
8.40 Beast of the City (1932, b/w) Walter Huston hunts a gangster (82696417)
10.20 East of the River (1940, b/w). Two brothers on opposite sides of the law fall in love with the same woman (31431900)
11.40 Hell's Kitchen (1939, b/w). Former convict Ronald Reagan attempts to straighten out a group of young ruffians (29687436)
1.15am Public Hero No 1 (1935, b/w): Undercover agent Lionel Barrymore is sent to prison to expose a mobster (57886108)
3.00 Bullets for O'Hara (1941, b/w) Turncoat Joan Perry decides to grass on her mobster husband (19176063) Ends at **3.50**

CNN

Twenty-four hour news

CMT

Country music from midnight to 4pm

QVC

Home shopping channel

WORLD MARKETS 29

EQUITIES REACH RECORD HIGHS OVER THE HOLIDAY

BUSINESS

TEMPUS TIPS 30

A SHARE PORTFOLIO FOR RECOVERY IN THE NEW YEAR

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 1993

BUSINESS EDITOR ROBERT BALLANTYNE

Full employment is the Government's goal, says Hunt

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

ALL Conservative employment secretaries see full employment as their goal, said David Hunt, Employment Secretary.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Hunt said "It is the goal of every employment secretary, and every Conservative employment secretary, to see full employment." He is sceptical, though, about the practical value of such terms, pointing out that even those who supported the notion — essentially, the idea that work should be available to all who want it — had sometimes sharply differing views about what it meant, let alone its practical applicability.

Mr Hunt says that the idea of full employment is particularly inappropriate for the economy when it is combined with what he describes as "job-destructive policies" such as Labour's support for a statutory national minimum wage and compulsory works councils.

He defined his goal of full employment as threefold: "Firstly, to get unacceptable levels of unemployment down permanently; secondly, to continue to improve the quality of training; and thirdly, to increase the skills of the existing workforce." He added: "Everybody knows what *we* are talking about when we say full employment, and therefore everybody knows what we mean and the standard by which we can be judged."

Stressing the fact that unemployment has fallen in 1993 against almost universal predictions that it would rise to 3.5 million and beyond, Mr Hunt said instead the year has ended with more jobs being created and unemployment down to 2.8 million. While he refuses to give any predictions about the level of unemployment in the new year, he said the evidence is that unemployment is now going down and is set to continue to do so: "The independent advice we have within the Department (of Employment) is that unemployment is on a downward trend" — though he says the trend decline is "not as high" as last month's fall of 36,100 in the seasonally-adjusted number of people out of work and claiming benefit.

But he forecasts 1994 will see more people in work. Looking forward to the G7 unemployment summit called for by President Clinton, now set for March, Mr Hunt said he would like to see Britain's stress on more flexible labour markets — which he and other economic ministers regard as a key cause of the fall in UK unemployment — adopted more widely.

Optimistic forecast, page 1
Leading from front, page 30

George backs banks over small firms

BY PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

■ Communication is the main problem between banks and small businesses, according to a draft report being circulated by the Bank of England

THE Bank of England has dismissed allegations that Britain's clearing banks failed to support small businesses during the recession. Eddie George, Governor of the Bank, called in senior executives of the clearers in September to discuss small firms' complaints that banks had been too quick to withdraw lending facilities from companies in trouble.

Since then, the Bank has conducted a three-month investigation. It has produced a draft copy of its findings and hopes to publish a statement of principle in the middle of next month. The draft has been circulated to clearing banks, to small business groups and to the Trade Department. Its only serious criticism of the banks is that they did not communicate well with small businesses.

The findings were discussed at a meeting with senior bank executives, small business representatives and DTI officials at the beginning of the month. But no agreement was reached on a statement of principle, to be used as a guideline for lending to small firms.

The Bank's findings are sure to disappoint small business lobby groups, including the Federation of Small Businesses and the Forum of Private Businesses, which have been hoping that Mr George would order a greater flow of funds.

One person close to the discussions said Mr George had recognised that the issue was "very complex and that there is no lending issue, the banks have lots of money to lend". The draft report urges all sides to "work together", as funding of small businesses is difficult and "there is no easy answer". The banks are certain to welcome the findings.

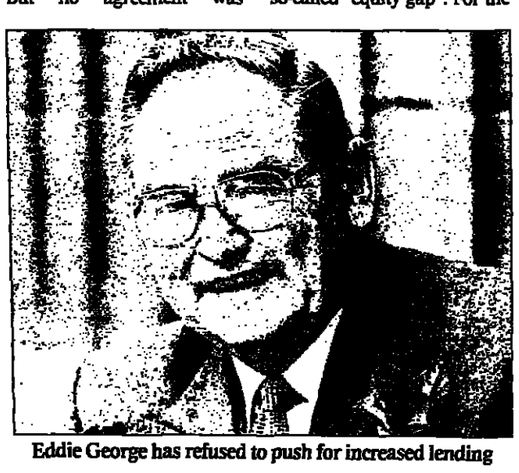
As a result of his investigation, Mr George has recognised the need to address the so-called "equity gap". For the past year, banks have been expressing concern that too much funding for small businesses comes from loans and overdrafts. This leaves firms exposed to sudden changes in interest rates or in bank lending policies.

Mr George also recognises that late payment of bills threatens small firms' ability to stay in business. Part of the investigation focused on how the Government can change tax policies to help small companies to obtain finance.

Last month's Budget went part of the way to closing the equity gap. An Enterprise Investment Scheme is to be set up, encouraging venture capital investments in small firms by offering income tax relief. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, also proposed a new type of investment trust that will channel savings into unquoted companies.

However, these measures go only part of the way. A Barclays Bank's survey of small business attitudes, to be published next month, will show that two thirds of small businesses do not want external equity finance as they want to retain control themselves. The survey also found that 87 per cent of business owners would be prepared to retain more profits in their businesses if it were tax-efficient to do so.

The Bank of England investigated whether clearing bank branch managers restricted lending to small firms because they were determined to stick to strict head office lending guidelines. It also asked whether better training for lending officers would help to improve lending practices.



Eddie George has refused to push for increased lending

STEPHEN MARKESON

"Faithful Annie", an Avro-Anson aircraft built in 1946, being restored at British Aerospace's factory in Cheshire by former employees. They are the only ones with the appropriate skills for renovating the aircraft, which was bought for £600 at auction. Their average age is 75

Plea-bargain on BCCI criticised

BY OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CHARGES against the former head of the National Commercial Bank of Saudi Arabia, the country's biggest commercial bank, are to be dismissed by US authorities in a deal in which he and an associate will pay $225 million.

The plea-bargain between Sheikh Khalid bin Mahfouz, the former chief operating officer of NCB, Haroon Kahlon, a former bank executive, and Robert Morgenthau, the New York district attorney, came in for some fierce criticism yesterday.

Keith Vaz, Labour MP for Leicester East, who is championing a compensation fight for creditors, urged the Government to ask President Clinton to put an end to deals done behind the backs of BCCI's worldwide creditors.

Mr Vaz said that the plea-bargain did nothing to advance the hopes of British creditors of BCCI, who remained no better off than they were two-and-a-half years ago, when the bank collapsed.

BCCI's liquidators, from Touche Ross, the firm of accountants, who are suing Sheikh Khalid for $10.5 billion in America and England said that the US plea-bargain will not affect their action.

Sheikh Khalid and Mr Kahlon had been charged by the US authorities with conspiring to steal more than $300 million from depositors in BCCI. All charges against Sheikh Khalid have been dropped in the case.

Sheikh Khalid and Mr Kahlon have both agreed to cooperate with the Manhattan district attorney's office and the US Federal Reserve in their ongoing BCCI enquiry.

Mr Morgenthau said: "There are other aspects of the investigation that are being pursued. There may be other indictments against other Americans."

Prosecutors had charged Sheikh Khalid with violating US law by buying 29 per cent of a BCCI subsidiary that controlled a US bank group without obtaining federal clearance. Mr Morgenthau had alleged that by pumping hundreds of millions of dollars into BCCI and then withdrawing it, Sheikh Khalid had worsened the losses when BCCI collapsed.

As a condition of the settlement, $35 million has been paid to the US Treasury, $1 million each to the state and city governments. The balance of $188 million will go into a special reserve fund to settle suits brought by those defrauded in the BCCI sandal.

"The money will be paid out eventually to depositors and creditors of BCCI overseas who were defrauded," James Kindler, the assistant district attorney who prosecuted the case, said. "They are the principal beneficaries. They will be paid 100 cents on the dollar."

□ On Christmas Day, an Abu Dhabi government department filed a civil claim worth more than $1 billion on the basis of criminal charges against 13 former senior executives of BCCI. Eleven defendants attended, while two are being tried in their absence, including Agha Hasan Abedi, the bank's founder. Those in court have pleaded not guilty to criminal charges including dissipating funds and forgery.

New Taiwan blow for BAe

BY SARAH BAGNALL

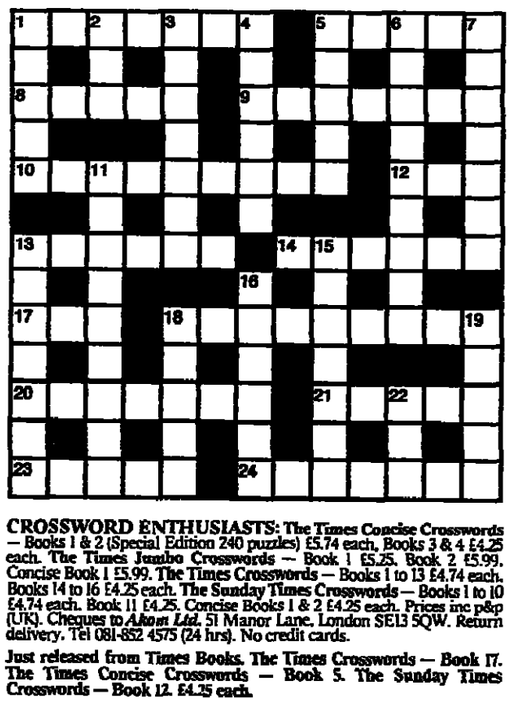
BRITISH Aerospace's hopes of setting up a £250 million venture with the Taiwan Aerospace Corporation were dealt a further setback yesterday when Chiang Pin-Kung, the Taiwanese Economics Minister, said talks were unlikely to resume before June.

Ten months of negotiations between BAe and TAC, 29 per cent owned by the Taiwanese government, to co-build commercial jets ceased two months ago, after they failed to agree terms. Mr Chiang told parliament that negotiations could not resume until his ministry has finished evaluating Taiwan's strategy to develop its fledgeling aerospace industry. This is expected by the end of June. TAC is said to be planning to choose new managers to work on the deal in February.

A BAe spokesman said the company was willing to restart negotiations as soon as possible but no meetings or agenda had yet been fixed. "We have maintained contact with TAC in the last two months and we believe that the differences can be resolved. We have had a number of visits and meetings during which we think we have resolved most of the differences," he said. The problems centre on the RJ regional passenger jets, and the development of an advanced plane, the RJX.

The collapse of the talks had threatened the future of BAe's Avro International regional jets business at Woodford, Cheshire. The spokesman said: "Whether or not the Taiwan deal goes through we will continue to run the Avro business. But we hope we will be able to do this through a joint venture."

Eddie George has refused to push for increased lending



CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: The Times Concise Crosswords — Books 1 & 2 (Special Edition 240 puzzles) £5.74 each, Books 3 & 4 £4.25 each. The Times Jumbo Crosswords — Book 1 £5.25, Book 2 £5.99. Concise Book 1 £5.99. The Times Crosswords — Books 1 to 13 £4.74 each. Books 14 to 16 £4.25 each. The Sunday Times Crosswords — Books 1 to 10 £4.74 each. Book 11 £4.25. Concise Books 1 & 2 £4.25 each. Prices inc p&p (UK). Cheques to *Atom Ltd.* 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Return delivery. Tel 081-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

Just released from Times Books. The Times Crosswords — Book 17. The Times Concise Crosswords — Book 5. The Sunday Times Crosswords — Book 12. £4.25 each.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 49

ACROSS
1 Origin (7)
5 Pink-fleshed tropical fruit (5)
8 Greek 'A' (5)
9 Having both real and imaginary parts (7)
10 Utterly (3,3,3)
12 Sticky mess (3)
13 Girl's companion for evening (6)
14 Spanish parliament (6)
17 Atom with abnormal number of electrons (3)
18 Place rifles over shoulders (5,4)
20 Principal western US watershed (7)
21 UAE sheikdom (5)
23 City, home of Leonardo's *Last Supper* (5)
24 Gland controlling growth (7)

DOWN
1 Sea-bird fertiliser (5)
2 Pinch (3)
3 In the works, it causes a hitch (7)
4 Area (6)
5 Complete range; musical scale (5)
6 Dangerous American aquatic reptile (9)
7 Worrying (7)
11 Concerning a practical point of applied science (9)
13 Memorable one-liner (7)
15 Time of public access to institution (4,3)
16 Tight undergarment (6)
18 Young (noble) family member (5)
19 Driven high in the air (5)
22 Call disapprovingly (3)

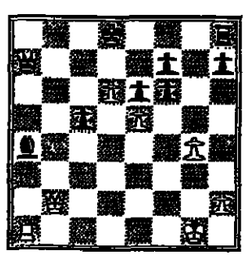
SOLUTION TO NO 48
ACROSS: 6 Vantage point 7 Mincer 8 Upkeep 9 Hero 10 Deadline 12 Half-life 16 NATO 18 Sculpt 20 Coffee 21 Commonwealth
DOWN: 1 Knock off 2 Ramrod 3 Medusa 4 Cork 5 Unseen 6 Voice 11 Landfill 13 Anchor 14 Intend 15 Eschew 17 Teeth 19 Lime

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is a possible conclusion of the game Plaskett - Mestel, Hastings Premier 1986/87. How would Plaskett have finished Black off in this position?

This year's Hastings tournament starts today. It will be fully reported in *The Times*.



Solution page 29
Raymond Keene, page 6

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

NITHER
a. A shepherd's crook
b. To bring low
c. Over there

PENNONCEL
a. A little flag
b. Once upon a time
c. A scrivener's knife

DERMESTES
a. A skin rash
b. A beetle
c. Eponym of a clubman

EMBAT
a. One of the Chiroptera
b. To engage in battle
c. An Egyptian wind

Answers on page 29

THE MERCURY PORTFOLIO IS DESIGNED FOR SUBSTANTIAL INVESTORS.

YOU CAN PARTICIPATE FROM £10,000.

Do you find the claims and counter-claims for different investments confusing?

Wouldn't you feel more comfortable with a balanced, global investment strategy designed and continually adjusted to suit the substantial UK investor?

The Mercury Portfolio, from Britain's leading investment house, does just that; and, with a minimum of £10,000, is within your reach.

Since its launch in 1989, the offer price of units has risen by over 80%, comfortably outperforming both the UK and World stockmarket Indices.*

It provides a high level of service including detailed quarterly reporting, with the Capital Gains Tax advantages of a unit trust structure.

For full details of The Mercury Portfolio, contact your financial adviser, call our Portfolio Enquiry Line free on 0800 445522 or return the coupon.

THE MERCURY PORTFOLIO
A SERVICE FROM BRITAIN'S LEADING INVESTMENT HOUSE

Investment values can fall as well as rise and are not guaranteed. ■ Past performance is no guarantee of the future. *Performance from 1.2.89 to 1.10.93, offer to offer, net income reinvested: The Mercury Portfolio versus the FT-A All-Share Index and the MSCI World Index. Source: Micropal. Mercury Fund Managers Ltd (member of IMRO, AUTIF and Lautro) is part of the Mercury Asset Management Group.

MERCURY ASSET MANAGEMENT

To Mercury Fund Managers Ltd.
FREEPOST London EC4B 4DQ
Please send me information on The Mercury Portfolio.
Surname.....
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms(Initials).....
Address.....
.....
.....Postcode.....
TIMES/1